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THE ANTIQUITIES, GENEALOGY AND HISTORICAL
MATTER ILLUSTRATING THE HISTORY
OF THE

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

A HISTORICAL MAGAZINE FOR THE PEOPLE

*A record of centuries and of men,
For twelve full score years and ten.*

JAMES N. ARNOLD, EDITOR

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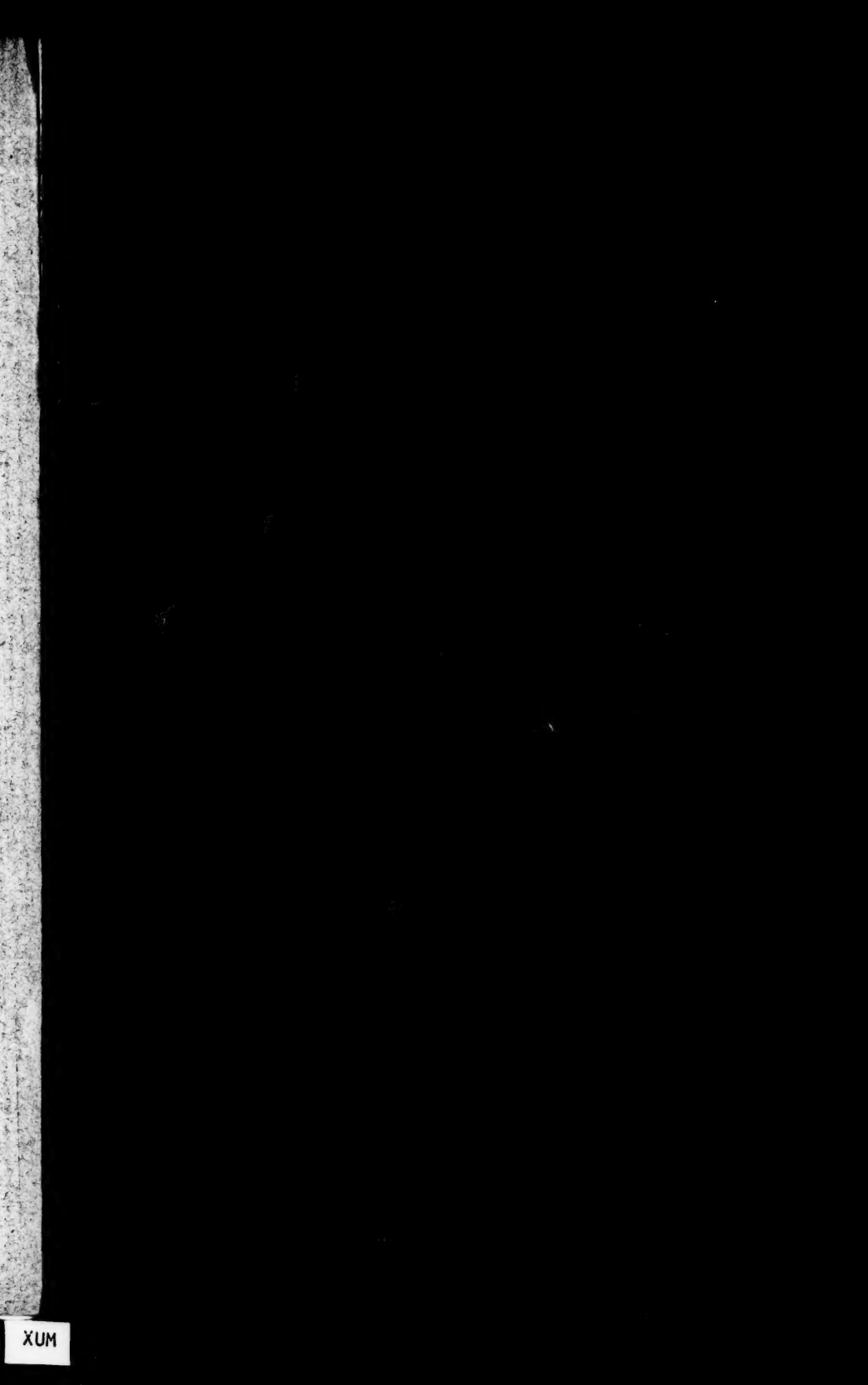
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THE Narragansett Historical Register.

A Historical Magazine for the People.

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VOL. VII. PROVIDENCE, R. I., July, 1889. No. 3.

FURTHER REMINISCENCES OF THE VALLEY OF THE PAWTUXET RIVER AND ITS BRANCHES.

By Noah J. Arnold.

THE former paper which I prepared for the Register related principally to the business and business men in this valley.

We now propose to write of the churches, the religious and moral influences exerted therein, the smaller business men and the ruling traits of character of its citizens generally.

There is a melancholy pleasure in reviewing the past, in looking over the days of our youth so many years after they have passed away, for by so doing we seem to live over again our early days and associate with our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, our old friends and acquaintances once more.

Rhode Island has four rivers, none of them can be called a large river, yet for this little State, they are considerable streams and they drain it almost entirely of its fresh water. These four valleys comprise about all the business portion of the State. They are the Blackstone, Woonasquatucket, Pawtuxet and Pawcatuck. None of these are more beautiful or important than that of the Pawtuxet.

Two-thirds of the water that waters the town of Foster, runs into the Pawtuxet. This town, therefore, must be included in the valley of that beautiful and useful stream. The small village of Mount Vernon is located in the southern part of the town where the "Mount Vernon Bank" was first located, of which Hon. Obadiah Fenner was President. He had four sons and two daughters. The eldest daughter was the first wife of Hon. Jonah Titus. His youngest daughter Miss. Alce Ann Fenner, was a rare flower, but early went into a decline and died February 12, 1826, aged 20 years, 6 months, and 21 days. Had she lived, would have married Mr. Charles Morse, Jr., of Washington village. Hon. Obediah Fenner was first cousin of Hon. James Fenner, who was Governor of the State eleven years under the Old Charter Government and two years under our present Constitution. Hon. Obediah Fenner was born June 29, 1764, in Gloucester, but moved to Foster in 1790, where he lived to be 95 1 2 years old retaining his faculties to the last. He voted for President, for Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Munroe, Jackson, Van Buren, Polk, Pierce and Buchanan. He left three sons, one son and both daughters having died before him. Mr. Harding H. Fenner, who died a few weeks since, was a son of John and grand-son of Hon. Obediah. Mr. Henry Fenner who now resides in Cranston, is another grand son and is the son of James Fenner.

There is a Christian Baptist Church at what is called "Rice City," in the westerly part of Coventry, with a settled pastor, which has existed there for more than seventy-five years. The meeting house is small, but large enough to accommodate the church and congregation. They have a church at Hemlock, and one in South Foster. The Free Baptists have three small churches in Foster. One in North Foster, the Morning Star Church; the Union Church and a Union church at Hopkins mills, composed of several denominations; all it is presumed, are doing a good work. There is a small village in the western part of the town of Scituate, called "Clayville," built by Gen. Josiah Whitaker, about the year 1830 or 1831 and was named in honor of the great Henry Clay of Kentucky. It was built for a comb factory, but no combs have been made there for several years. The factories have been changed into cotton factories for spinning cotton yarn. There are about forty dwelling houses, two country stores for the sale of groceries and dry goods, and 200 inhabitants in the village, also a Christian Baptist church of which the Rev. Mr. Luther is pastor.

Bowen's Hill in Coventry is enclosed by the waters of this beautiful stream. This has been known as a good farming section from the earliest settlement of the state. When Gen. Washington marched the American Army from Boston to New York in 1776, one division of it marched over Bowen's Hill and encamped there one night. Washington himself commanded this division. Mr. Asaph Bowen told me that Washington made his head-quarters at his uncle's tavern. Mr. Bowen was then a young man near eighteen years of age, and said he had an excellent opportunity to see Washington. A class of well to do farmers have lived here from the

earliest settlement of our forefathers, bearing the names of Bowen, Waterman, Rice, Stone, Potter Carpenter, &c. The late Tully Bowen was a native of this hill. Joseph B. Dorrance, quite a brilliant young man was reared here. Of the productions they excelled in butter and cheese.

Not far from this hill, near the town line of Foster, but in Coventry, stood what was called the "Great Chestnut," one of the land-marks in that section of country. Known as such in the border towns, even into eastern Connecticut. It was probably the largest tree of any kind ever grown in Rhode Island. It was a land-mark from the earliest settlement of the State, until it rotted and was blown down some over seventy years ago. A school house now stands on the spot where it once stood and is now known as the "Chestnut School House."

Elder Stone's Meeting House was another old land-mark. It stood in the forks of the roads, one running from Anthony and Washington villages on to Bowen's Hill, and from there to Plainfield, Connecticut, and the other running to what is now called "Coventry Centre," and about one and a half miles from it. This was a Baptist Meeting House and was erected in 1758 or 9. It was the principal house for public worship for several miles around. Elder Worden had the house built and was its first pastor, and continued as such until he was an old man. Rev. Charles Stone was ordained to be pastor of this church in 1798 and was pastor for forty-six years. He never received a salary, but labored as other men for his support. He never had anything but a common district school education. But was quite an eloquent preacher, always sound in evangelical doctrines, and was an instrument in the hands of the Lord of doing much good.

After his death (which occurred in 1844), there was no settled pastor here, the house was neglected and the members

scattered. The house went to decay, and was finally taken down, and the materials carried away. There is now no building on the ground, and there has been no church there for these fifty years, but it was once a noted place, and a land-mark for that section of the State.

Rev. Mr. Stone died as he had lived, an humble follower of Christ.

It was in the town of Coventry that two of the celebrated regicides of Charles I., took up their permanent abode, after living in various places in New England. They were two of Oliver Cromwell's abliest generals in the revolution in England, which dethroned and then beheaded Charles I., King of England. Their names were Goffe and Whalley, and were reputed to be the best swordsmen in Europe. They were members of the Court that tried the king and voted the sentence of death upon him. After the restoration of Charles II., all those who were alive that were members of that Court had to flee from England to such places of refuge as they could find, or they would have been put to death. Goffe and Whalley came to this country, and kept secreted as well as they could. Some anecdotes are related of them while they were thus secreted.

One of these is, that when the town of Hadley in Massachusetts was attacked by the Indians during King Philip's war, that the attack was made on Sunday when the people were at church. They always went to church fully armed to be ready to defend themselves, in case the Indians should attack them, and if the Indians attacked, the men would seize their arms and a fierce battle commence. In this instance the Indians seemed to be getting the best of it, but all on a sudden a stranger appeared among them, took the command

of the people, and by his bravery and superior management soon drove off the Indians. Soon as this victory was gained, this stranger disappeared as mysteriously as he came. The people thought that an angel had been sent by Heaven to deliver them from the savages.

It was either Goffe or Whalley, who was secreted with some of the neighbors there.

At another time a Tinker with a cheese under his arm and a kettle of blacking in the hand, stopped at a tavern in a village in Massachusetts, where a French Fencing Master was teaching the art of fencing. He was challenging any one to try with him. Several did so and so expert was he, that he would soon disarm them. Presently the Tinker with his swab stick and his cheese under his arm took the floor and said he would try him. Although he disdained such a competitor as this tinker, yet to make sport for the company at the tinkers expense, he consented to try him. They went at it, but with all his skill he could not touch the tinker. Presently the tinker caught the fencing master's sword in his cheese and blacked one of his cheeks with the end of his swab stick. and the laugh turned on him instead of the tinker. He sweat and grew mad and exerted himself to the utmost to overcome the tinker. The next moment the tinker blacked the other cheek! The fencing master was now in a rage and threatened to kill him, but the tinker said coolly "don't you attempt that, for if you do, you are the dead man." The fencing master sword dropped, and he said; " You are either Goffe, Whalley, or the Devil, for there are no others in the world that can fence with me," and he was right, for it was one of these men, in the disguise of a tinker that stood before him.

Their descendants are still living in Coventry. The descendants of Whalley spell their name *Whaley*, and those of *Goffe Goff*. Sixty years ago, Jonathan Whaley was the largest land owner in Coventry and one of the wealthiest men owning several hundred acres of land. *

The Maple Root Church was a branch of the Old Warwick Church, and was set off in 1744, but it does not appear to be fully organized until Oct 14, 1762, with 26 members. In 1763, they chose Timothy Greene for pastor and William King deacon, both ordained Sept. 1, 1763. Elder Greene removed to the west in 1770 and died about 1780. Elder Reuben Hopkins of the Scituate Church then served as their pastor. Thomas Whaley was ordained deacon June 25, 1776. Thomas Manchester, born 1750, was ordained pastor Sept-12, 1782. He remained such for more than fifty years. The church, at the time of his ordination had about 75 members. He was a man of great influence in the Six Principle Baptist Denomination, and in his old age was looked up to as the leader and father of the denomination. He died on the 7th. of September, 1834, in his 85th. year; at his son-in-law's house, Mr. Lawton Johnson, who then resided in the Anthony village, Coventry.

* [The Editor of the Register would be much pleased to have his readers or any one else who has the information, to have them inform him, upon what authority the statement above made, that both Goffe and Whalley made Coventry their permanent abiding place is based. If it rests even upon tradition only, as he suspects, to please state the sources of that tradition. Any further information upon this, to him, deeply interesting subject will be most thankfully received.]

Elder Pardon Tillinghast officiated at his funeral, and preached quite a lengthy sermon. His son, Elder Thomas Tillinghast, made some lengthened remarks on the life and long ministerial labors of Elder Manchester, and how firm he was on his death bed in the faith of the Six Principle Baptist doctrine which he had preached so faithfully for more than fifty years.

Elder Pardon Tillinghast succeeded Elder Manchester, as pastor of the Maple Root Church, which at the time of Elder Manchester's death, had over six hundred members. Elder Pardon Tillinghast was probably over sixty years old when Elder Manchester died, and had been up to that time more than thirty years in the ministry, and a more faithful man never lived. Although possessed with nothing but a common district school education, he was an eloquent preacher and a good Bible student. All that knew him had great confidence in the man, and he never, in a long life of eighty years did a thing to impair that confidence.

"Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace."

The Maple Root Meeting House is a small two story building with a gallery. The Six Principle Baptists have many times held their Yearly General Meeting at this place. Crowds of from three to six thousand people, have been present on such occasions.

Elder William C. Manchester was the son of Elder Thomas, of whom we have just been speaking, and was the first pastor of the Roger Williams Church which was first built on Burges street in this city, but was destroyed by fire about the year 1844. Elder Manchester was the ablest and most eloquent preacher in the order. Mr. William Olney, now living at 480 High street, married his daughter for his first wife,

and has a handsome portrait of him which is an excellent likeness.

It represents him preaching in his pulpit.

While he was pastor of this church, he compiled a conference Hymn Book which will compare favorably, for the excellency of its hymns, with any that have since been published.

Perhaps it is necessary to state here what made a division in the Baptist Churches, in this State, and why a small division of them were, and are still called "Six Principle Baptist." The Baptist Churches in Rhode Island, and everywhere else, were once what might be termed Six Principle. The doctrine of laying on of hands, on the reception of new members, had been held in a rather loose manner by the First Baptist Church Providence, previous to the year 1791, and some were so admitted afterwards.

The city churches and many in the country towns in a few years from this period, entirely abandoned the practice. Some of the country churches however, continued the practice and refused to commune with the churches that had abandoned it. Therefore, those churches that still adhered to the practice of laying on of hands, were called "Six Principle Baptist." These Six Principles are taken from the sixth chapter of Hebrews, the three first verses, as follows:

" 1. Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on to perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith towards God, 2. Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3. And this will we do, if God permit."

In short these doctrines are:

Repentance, Faith, Baptisms, Laying on of hands, Resurrection of the dead, Eternal judgment.

This passage of Scripture shows, that these doctrines were believed and practiced by the Apostles and Early Christians, and that there should be no controversy respecting them, but the church should practice them all and strive to go on to perfection.

The Warwick and Coventry Baptist Meeting House, was built in what is now called Quidnic village in 1808. It was named "Tin Top" from the tower or steeple being covered with tin. This steeple or tower was blown down in the great September gale of 1815.

"Probably no building ever erected in Kent County, with the exception of the great Anthony factory, ever awakened so much interest as this. People living miles away, with curiosity excited, came and viewed it with wondering delight. Boys from the neighboring villages ran away from school attracted by its glittering tower. Large congregations gathered for worship within its walls and the church, with grateful pride viewed the result of their toils and sacrifices." [Fuller]

It appears that Elder David Curtis was one of the first pastors of the Warwick and Coventry Baptist church, after it was moved to the Tin Top Meeting House, but other ministers used occasionally to preach in the house. Dr. Stephen Gano, the eminent pastor of the First Baptist Church of this city, Asa Messer, President of Brown University, Rev. David Benedict of Pawtucket, Rev. J. Pitman and others; occasionally preached there. On the 10th. of September 1810, this church joined the Warren Association. Rev. Levi Walker, M. D., followed Mr. Curtis as pastor in 1817, and remained such until 1819. The third pastor was Rev. Jonathan Wilson, who received a call from the church to the pastorate April 5, 1823, which he accepted and united with the church June 8, following, and remained pastor until Feb. 19, 1830.

He was a minister with a very limited education, but was a ready, easy, and quite an effective speaker, sometimes pathetic and eloquent. On one occasion (when I was a boy twelve or fourteen years old), I remember of his relating this circumstance connected with his early ministry. Several years previous to his settlement in Coventry, when he was traveling preacher in the State of New York, he stopped one day to water his horse in a brook which run across the road. While his horse was drinking, a dead fish came floating down stream. " That," thought he; " is a perfect emblem of the poor sinner. This poor fish is dead. If nothing stops it, will continue to float down stream until it reaches the ocean. Just so is the poor sinner, dead in trespasses and sins, floating down the stream of time to the great ocean of eternity."

It was a common thing for him to illustrate his text by some anecdote which had attracted his attention. During his pastorate of this church, a great revival broke out which continued for over a year. During this revival a large number were added to this church from Crompton, Centreville, Anthony, Quidnic. and the surrounding country. There were added to this church more than forty by baptism during this revival, and probably fifty or sixty more joined the neighboring churches. During the five and a half years of his ministry fifty-six new members were added to the church of various ages. Among these were Joseph, Asahel, Robert and Almon Bennett, and their two sisters, Sally Ann and Mary E. Bennett; six in one family. Joseph and Almon Bennett were chosen deacons, some years after, of the Friendship St. Baptist Church, Providence. The latter is a deacon in that church now, but his brother Joseph died a few years since, over eighty years of age, firm in the triumphs of a Christian faith. It was during this revival at the Tin Top Baptist church that people came from quite a distance to hear Joseph

and Asahel Bennett speak. They were full of zeal and often eloquent in their appeals to the unconverted, and both commanded great attention. Miss. Marcella Bowen, a young girl only fourteen or fifteen years of age, modest and unassuming, experienced religion, would then rise in the presence of six to eight hundred and speak with an ease and fluency that astonished every one. So much so, that many thought she must have been inspired. Mr. Sanford Durfee was a member of the church at this time, and he told me a few years before he died, that he thought that this Miss. Marcella Bowen must have been inspired. Mr. Durfee was a member of the First Baptist Church of this city for a number of years and died as such, some dozen years ago.

The fourth pastor of the church was the Rev. Arthur A. Ross, who united with the church July 4, 1830, and closed his labors with it in December 1834. The parsonage was built in the village of Centreville in 1832, by John Allen and given by him to the church. During the pastorate of Elder Ross, the church was greatly revived and when he left it there was some three hundred and fifty members, one of the largest churches in the rural part of Rhode Island. There were added to it in the four and a half years he was pastor 208 members. It was in a revived state during his entire administration, one of the most glorious revivals ever witnessed in that region occurred during that period. Some of the ablest and most substantial business men in the neighboring villages came out in religion and took a stand for Christ. Elder Ross was an eloquent preacher and thoroughly believed what he preached, as was often attested by tears as he spoke of the sufferings of Christ for the sins of mankind. On one of these occasions, while portraying his sufferings for our sins, he said, while tears were rolling down his cheeks, "I want no prouder epitaph on my grave-stones when I am dead

and gone, than that I lived and died an humble follower of this Jesus."

On another occasion when speaking of those sitting under the preaching of the gospel for years without being converted he exclaimed, "The same sun which melts the wax hardens the clay."

There was no revival while this church continued to worship in the Tin Top Meeting house, after Elder Ross left. The new meeting house was built near Crompton in 1843. This house was given by Mr. John Allen to the church when the church was removed there. This church had 845 names on its books up to 1875. Probably by this time 1000 have been connected with it since its organization. A large number of its members resided in Crompton. Among them was Dea. James Tilley, and evening meetings were often held there to accommodate these members, but there was no room large enough to accommodate the whole, and the Crompton Company fitted up the upper room in their store building to hold meetings in and sabbath schools, previous to the erection of the new meeting house. During the pastorates of the Revs. Jonathan Wilson, and Arthur A. Ross, James Tilley and Palmer Tanner were the officiating deacons of the church. They were considered very pious and able deacons. Deacon Tanner reared a large family of children, the two oldest are still living; Abel and Jeremiah Tanner. The former is in his 84th. and the latter in his 83d. year; both smart for men of their age. Mr. Jeremiah Tanner is a resident of this city, but Mr. Abel Tanner resides at Mystic River Connecticut. He has a son residing in this city, and is a cigar manufacturer at No. 403 High St. Mr. Abel Tanner was a gifted natural speaker, and took a prominent rank among the early abolition lecturers in the history of the "Anti Slavery" excitement,

and was much thought of by the "Anti Slavery Societies." He was an intimate friend of Wendell Phillips.

There are now four meeting-houses in the village of Crompton, viz., the Regular Baptist, the Six Principle Baptist, the Episcopal and the Roman Catholic. All of them are tolerably well sustained.

The Six Principle Baptist Church was formed April 23, 1842, with 38 members. They erected a meeting house and dedicated it Sept. 7, 1844 as a branch of the Maple Root Church.

St. Philips Episcopal Church was formed May 27, 1845, with Rev. J. Mulchahey as pastor. The church has been fairly prosperous.

[See Rev. O. P. Fuller's *History of Warwick* for further information on this subject.]

The Crompton stone factory was built in 1807, by Seth Wheaton, Henry Smith, Nathaniel Searle, Jonathan Tiffany, Benjamin Remington, Thomas Sessions and John Pitman. Sullivan Dorr, the father of Thomas W. Dorr, bought Mr. Wheaton's shares. Roger Alexander, bought two shares of the stock. This property changed owners oftener than other mills in the State. The mills were rented Nov. 29, 1820, to Messrs Rhodes of Pawtuxet, Elisha P. Smith and Tully Dorrance, of Providence. Then Seth Wheaton, Gen. Edward Carrington and Benjamin Cozzens took possession of it in 1823. It now took the name of the "Crompton Company," in honor of the celebrated machinist of that name. Previous to this time, it had borne the name of the "Stone Factory." It was often called the "Stone Jug." Cotton mill No. 2, was built in 1828 and No. 3, in 1832.

The Company went into the calico printing business and in one year from July 1, 1844, the Print Works cleared

\$100,000. In 1846, there was a "financial crash and break down," the whole concern was sold by the mortgagee, and another new order of things commenced. The whole of this great estate fell into the hands of Ex. Gov. Charles Jackson, Earl P. Mason, Daniel Bush, and William T. Dorrence of Providence. The Print Works were leased to Abbott and Saunders in 1852, and afterwards to Saunders alone who continued to run the works a number of years.

A fine school-house for the times was erected here in the years 1867, 8.

Dr. William A. Hubbard, a prominent and able physician in this village died March 1, 1857. He had an extensive practice and gained the confidence of the public.

Capt. John Holden kept a variety store here for many years and was a leading citizen. He was the father of Thomas R. Holden and grand-father of Dea. Robert Holden, of the Cranston St. Baptist Church, the able and efficient superintendent of the largest Protestant Sabbath school in the State.

Dea. Pardon Spencer was a prominent man in this village for some fifty years and an active deacon in the church.

Samuel Bennett kept the toll-gate on the Providence and New London Turn-pike for 23 years. He had four sons and two daughters, and every-one was a member of the Warwick and Coventry Baptist Church worshipping in the Tin Top Baptist Meeting-house.

Preserved Briggs, a good mechanic and musician, resided here many years.

Jonathan Tiffany, an uncle of James Tiffany of this city, resided in this village for more than fifty years. He was a gentleman of integrity and an influential man.

From the year 1800 to 1815, Connecticut Massachusetts, and especially Rhode Island people *run wild* about building small Cotton Factories. Farmers that had a small brook running through their farms, especially if it had much fall, felt as though they must erect a small factory on it, go to spinning cotton yarn, and "get rich."

A factory of this class was erected on a small stream that empties into the South-west Branch of the Pawtuxet, in the southerly part of Crompton village in 1816. It was called the "Flat-top Factory," owing to its having a flat roof. This factory had but little water, especially in a dry time, but it had a fall of over thirty feet. This stream was made by the union of two small brooks, one rising in the south-westerly part of the town of Warwick, the other three quarters of a mile east of it, uniting near the Flat-top pond. They form the small stream that drives the machinery in that factory. The whole length of the stream is not much over one and a half miles from its source to its mouth. This factory has changed owners often. It was built by Jonathan Tiffany. A few years after was bought by Oliver Johnson, who soon took for a partner John Wood. They put in power looms, run it a few years and prospered. John Higgins and others then bought and run it. After them Joseph James and John Card ran it and made yarn. The mill was burnt some three times during fifty years and rebuilt. Jonathan Tiffany built a small factory for spinning cotton yarn on the east brook that helps form the Flat-top stream, which had more than thirty-four feet fall. One day when the machinery was running full speed, all at once the wheel almost stopped. The help ran out to see what the matter was. *They found a cow drinking the water that ought to run on to the wheel.* When

the cow quenched her thirst, the wheel started up again full speed.

Centreville is the next village below Crompton. It was probably settled prior to 1700. The proprietors of this section were Henry Wood, John Smith, John Greene and John Warner. A saw mill stood here early in the 18th. century owned by Job Greene. Philip Greene, son of Job, was judge of the County Court from 1759 to 1784. He was the father of Col. Christopher Greene of the Revolutionary War, who commanded the Rhode Island Regiment, that fought so gallantly at Red Bank, defeating an army of Hessians three times as large as his own force. William Greene, a resident of this neighborhood was Governor of the State from 1778 to 1786.

The first cotton mill erected in this country was started in the village of Pawtucket in 1790. The one erected in Centreville was four years afterwards, or 1794. William Almy and Obediah Brown bought one-half of the factory privilege there for \$2500. John Allen, who was to be one of the company went with Obediah Brown to Pawtucket, to take some measurements of Samuel Slater's machinery. Slater forbid him, but as Mr. Brown was one of Mr. Slater's backers Mr. Allen took no notice of it. Mr. Slater then took hold of Mr. Allen and pushed him away. Mr. Brown then said, "Let me take the rule I will measure and we will see if he will lay hands on me." He did so, but Mr. Slater never molested him.

The original owners of this small mill were: William Potter, one-third, John Allen, one-sixth, McKerris, one-sixth, James Greene, one-ninth, Job Greene one-eighteenth, the remaining one-sixth, by several parties.

The second mill was built in 1807 on the east side of the river. The company was composed of William Almy, Obediah Brown, James Greene, John Allen, Gideon Greene and John Greene.

John Allen superintended the erection of this as he had of the first mill.

Mr. Allen lived in Centreville the remainder of his life, sharing in all the vicissitudes of the manufacturing business, loved honored and respected by all who knew him, acquired a handsome fortune and died the triumphant death of a true Christian July 26, 1845, in the 78th. year of his age.

Mr. John Greene likewise spent his days here, occupying a high position as an upright and honorable business man, and died July 16, 1851, one of the wealthiest men in this vicinity. He left one son and two daughters. He was President of the Centreville Bank from its first establishment until his death.

Mr. George Whitman, now a member of this Association, was a nephew of Mr. Greene, and his confidential clerk for twenty-two years.

Dr. Sylvester Knight, lived here as a practicing physician for twenty-seven years, and acquired a reputation of being a very skillful physician, an honest and gentlemanly man, and one who was universally beloved and respected. His son, the Hon. Jabez C. Knight, told me recently, that so great was his father's practice, that when he was a boy and went to school, sometimes he would not see him in two weeks. His health began to fail him, and growing weary of so much business, removed to this city where he died March 15, 1841, aged 54 years.

Dr. Charles Jewett was called from East Greenwich to fill his place in Centreville, and had he continued in the practice

there, might have become a wealthy man for he had already acquired the reputation of a skilled physician and an excellent surgeon, but he preferred the lecture field in the cause of temperance, and acquired the reputation of being one of the ablest and most scientific lecturer on temperance, in the country.

James Waterhouse came to this country from England with no resources but his fruitful mind and indomitable will. He bought two-thirds of the water power here of the heirs of John Greene, and made several kinds of cassimeres, was successful and became rich, but afterwards became somewhat involved. He rose in the Rhode Island militia to the rank of Brigadier General. He died in Lowell, Mass., March 25, 1872 where he had gone to see his sick wife. Gen. Waterhouse had the reputation of being a noble and generous man. One that wealth did not change in his social intercourse with his neighbors and old friends.

Oliver Johnson, when a young man taught school in this village. He was a very popular and successful teacher.

John B. Arnold carried on the business of a merchant tailor in this village for forty years. For a great number of years he was considered by all the fashionable young men in all the neighboring villages, to be the *beau ideal* of a tailor. He was a fair and honorable business man, and was highly respected. He lived to be over eighty years of age.

Jeremiah Briggs, one of the successful gold and silver platers of Providence, was reared here.

Job, Gideon, Henry and Anthony Hamilton, four brothers, were residents of Centreville and Crompton villages. They were all good singers and sang in the Choir at the Tin Top meeting house.

Whipple Arnold was a resident of this village and was the first Postmaster here, an office he held for many years and through several administrations.

The first Stage Coach from this region to Providence was started in 1823, and run several years by Andrew Arnold from Washington village through all the villages on the South-west Branch of the Pawtuxet River to Providence. It was then thought to be quite an honor and a luxury to ride in the stage to Providence, much more than it is now to ride even in palace cars.

George Scott started a stage from Hope village through all the villages on the North-west Branch of the Pawtuxet River soon after Mr. Arnold started his on the South-west Branch. Both of these routes were popular and equally well sustained.

Gilbert Remington, a nephew of Mr. Arnold, bought him out and run the stage for some years giving great satisfaction to the public and was always kind and accommodating to his passengers. After several years of successfully pursuing this business, he sold out to George Scott, who run both lines for several years. He never gave up the business until the Providence and Hartford Rail-road commenced running their cars. He then published his Valedictory address in the Providence Journal, thanking his patrons and bidding them a respectful farewell after serving them faithfully for about thirty years. Mr. Scott was not only an excellent stage driver, but one of the best fifers in the State. He was for a few years fife-major to the 9th. Regiment of Rhode Island Militia. One could listen to his playing by the hour together.

The Centreville Bank was incorporated in June, 1828. with capital of only \$25,000. John Greene was its first President and Rev. Moses Fifeild the first cashier. Mr. Greene, as has been mentioned, remained President until his death.

Cyrus Harris was then chosen President and held that position several years. The present Moses Fifield, who is cashier, is a son of the Rev. Moses Fifield, who took the cashiership a few years before the death of his father, which occurred April 19, 1859. Rev. Jonathan Brayton was chosen President on the resignation of Mr. Harris.

It was in this village that the lamented Burrell Arnold was murdered while sitting in his store for his activity in the cause of temperance. And what is remarkably strange is the murderers have never been found and punished.

Josiah Merrill was a resident of this village all his life and reared here a large family of children.

Lovewell Spaulding, a leading and active member of the Methodist church, was a resident of this village.

George B. Seabury moved into this village from the town of Tiverton in 1824. He was a blacksmith by trade and carried on that business nearly to the end of life and died aged 88 years. He left three children, one son and two daughters. The son is the eminent dentist, Dr. F. N. Seabury, now located with his son at No. 294 Westminster St. in this city. A son that Centreville may justly feel proud of raising and the city of Providence that it possesses such an able dentist and gentlemanly a citizen.

Joseph Burton was a resident of Centreville for some fifty years. He was the father of Sheldon Burton, the celebrated snare drummer and the intimate friend of William Anthony Jr., spoken of in our first paper on the valley of the Pawtuxet.

The village of Centreville has done its share in contributing to the prosperity of Providence and keeping it the second city in New England in point of population, enterprize, wealth and trade. She has contributed distinguished manufacturers, merchants, physicians and dentists; such as John

Allen, the Harris's, Greene's, Lapham's Johnson's Seabury's Waterhouse, and one Mayor of Providence for seven years, Hon. Jabez C. Knight.

The Methodist Episcopal Meeting House was built in Centreville in 1831 and '32. A flourishing church was formed and the Rev. Moses Fifield was one of its first pastors, and continued such until he was chosen cashier of the Centreville Bank. He was an excellent man, honored and respected by all. There was probably a Methodist church here previous to the erection of the meeting house in 1831. The Methodists held meetings in the District School House previous to that time. I recollect of going to Centreville early in the morning in the month of June with another boy, when I was about twelve years of age, to witness the baptism of more than twenty candidates in the Centreville Pond, who joined the Methodist church. They were all immersed but one and that one was a lady. She kneeled in the water where it was nearly two feet deep and the minister poured a basin of water on her head. They were baptized on the east side of the pond. We boys set down on the west side. The procession marched down to the water two deep, singing beautiful and inspiring hymns. There was no wind blowing at the time, and the sun in all its glory never shone more beautiful, all nature smiled in all its pristinest loveliness. It was certainly one of the most lovely scenes of the kind I ever witnessed in my life and can never be effaced from my memory. The sun of Austerlitz arose on a December morning over a field of battle, red with the slaughter of thirty thousand men, but this morning sun of June, rose over a beautiful baptismal scene of more than twenty pilgrims who had started on a journey to the New Jerusalem.

The next village after Centreville is Artic, of which we spoke in our former paper. But this village is growing and is already connected with River Point. There is a large Roman Catholic church near the rail-road station in North Centreville, near Artic, to accommodate the French Catholics. The house is 112 by 60 feet. It is called "St. John's Church." Rev. Henry Spruyt was the first pastor. This building is an ornament to the village.

A Congregational church was formed at River Point in 1849, with ten members. Rev. George Uhler acted as its pastor. He was succeeded by Rev. S. B. Goodnow until 1855. Then Rev. Mr. Woodbury supplied the pulpit. In 1857, Rev. George W. Adams was installed as pastor, who continued as such until his death which occurred Dec. 9, 1862. He was a diligent student and a sound theologian. This meeting house was erected by Dr. Stephen Harris and his two sons, Cyrus and Stephen Harris.

A Six Principle Baptist Meeting House was erected at River Point in 1857. It was then called Birch Hill. This church was in part the scattered fragments of the Six Principle Baptist church of Phenix which was dissolved there and reorganized here and still maintains its standing.

There was a Congregational Meeting House erected in Washington village, Coventry, about the year 1830, by the Rev. Mr. Pease, who preached in it to a small Congregation a few years and kept during the time a school for the higher branches of education, such as were not taught in the common schools. Some success attended this instruction. Mr. Pease returned to Massachusetts and the Rev. Mr. Janeson, a Scotch gentleman, highly educated in the University of Edinburgh (about the year 1833,) took his place, a Congre-

gational church was formed and Orin Spencer and Charles Morse, Jr., were ordained deacons. Mr. Janeson preached a few years and had a call to the pastorate of the East Greenwich Congregational church, and removed to that village.

Dea. Orin Spencer was the father of Joel M. Spencer, who was State Auditor for about fourteen years; of Orin Spencer, prominent politician here, who during the summer months keeps one of the fashionable hotels at Watch Hill, in the town of Westerly, and of Jonathan Spencer, who died a few years ago.

This church was dissolved several years afterwards and a Union church was formed, composed of several denominations. The Rev. James H. Dow of Providence, became their pastor, who continued in that capacity several years. The Meeting house has been in the hands of the Methodists for several years. The Rev. Mr. ————— is now pastor.

All the villages in the Valley of the Pawtuxet, contain as respectable citizens as can be found in the State. Washington village, in this respect, was equal to any of them. In addition to those mentioned in our first paper, viz; Thomas Whipple, Peleg Wilbur and John Bissell, we may mention Anthony Tarbox, cashier of the Bank of Kent nearly during its existence. Benjamin Kimball, Russell Chace, Martin S. Whitman, Charles Morse, Charles Morse, Jr., Jesse Cook, Caleb and John J. Kilton, Alban M. Stone, Orin Spencer, Samuel Wall, Henry Remington, Oliver C. and Thomas B. Wilbur.

In the Anthony village, in addition to the Anthony family, there was Perez Peck, Job Harkness, Elisha, Christopher and Daniel R. Whitman, Stephen and Joseph Manchester, Judge Manchester, William Place, Smith Williams, Nicholas D. and Charles Greene, Lawton Johnson, Joseph Sisson, James Mat-

hewson, and many others. Christopher Whitman when he died was the richest man in Coventry. His brother, Daniel R. Whitman, was a young man of noble sentiments, and better read than ordinary young men of his time.

Charles Greene's boot and shoe making shop stood on the side of the common in Anthony village. It was a sort of rendezvous for the first men of the village to meet evenings and talk over business and the political, religious, scientific, and social matters of the times.

We mentioned in our former paper, that every village on each branch of the Pawtuxet River, had Temperance Societies. Washington and Anthony villages united and formed one between them, and met alternately in each village. The chief instrument in forming this Society was Dr. Hiram Cleveland, assisted by Perez Peck, and then by Col. Peleg Wilbur and Hon. Thomas Whipple. Dr. Cleveland was a strong advocate of Temperance and did much to mould the temperance sentiment of that section and of the State. He was a skillful surgeon. He moved a few years after this, to the village of Pawtucket, where he died some twenty years ago.

Dr. Peleg Clark, a well read physician, bought the estate vacated by Dr. Cleveland, moved to Coventry, and practiced his profession with success. Like Dr. Cleveland, he was a temperance man, as were most of the physicians in New England. He delivered some excellent temperance addresses. The Anti-Slavery excitement arose, he enlisted warmly in that cause and was chosen President of the Rhode Island Anti-Slavery Society. He became one of the principal leaders of that cause. He was a man of considerable ability and made his mark in whatever cause he engaged.

The Bank of Kent, located in Washington village, was organized in 1818. Dr. Caleb Fiske was chosen President

and a Mr. Jencks Cashier. The capital of the Bank was \$50,000. In 1820, the President and Cashier resigned, and John Allen of Centreville, was chosen President and Anthony Tarbox of Washington village, Cashier. Mr. Allen remained President until his death in 1845. Mr. Tarbox remained Cashier until his death in 1867. Col. Peleg Wilbur, was chosen President in 1845, and remained such until the Bank was wound up in 1869. Joel M. Spencer, was chosen Cashier on the death of Mr. Tarbox, and remained such until the Bank was wound up in 1869.

The Coventry Bank was organized in 1865, with a capital of \$100,000. Christopher A. Whitman was chosen President and Thomas Whitman, Cashier. Mr. C. A. Whitman, remained President until his death, and then Asahel Mathewson was chosen. Thomas Whitman remained Cashier until his death, when Edward B. Williams was chosen. The Bank is being wound up.

There is a small spring brook about one and a half miles south of Washington Village, Coventry, with some thirty feet fall on it. It is one of the four small brooks that makes up the Dyer Brook. Perez Peck and Jabez Anthony (uncle of Senator Anthony), built a small factory two story in front and three story in the rear, about the year 1829 or 1830 and named it "Barclayville," in honor of the celebrated English Divine, of the Society of Friends, Robert Barclay. They run this factory in company a few years. Then Mr. Anthony and his son William, bought out Mr. Peck and continued the business, making cotton rope, banding and twine. After the death of Jabez Anthony, his son William, and his sons, continued the business, and it is still run by the family. This small factory has been a success.

North Scituate is a large and handsome village and has been a place of some enterprise in past years. It is handsomely located in the North-easterly part of the town of Scituate, in a somewhat level section of land, near Moswansicut pond or lake, one of the most beautiful sheets of water in the State. This village is the location of the Lapham Institute, which flourished for several years as an academy under the preceptorship of Rev. Hosea Quimby and Rev. Ammi Bradbury and his wife. Mr. Quimby was a christian, a scholar and a gentleman. After Hon. Benedict Lapham bought and gave the academy buildings to the Free Baptist denomination, the Rev. B. F. Hayes became the Principal and the academy again flourished. Mr. Hayes was a gentleman of a fine education, and he could speak fluently in some half a dozen languages. He had a call to a professorship in Bates College, at Lewiston, Maine, and he went there. The Institution began to wane and was finally abandoned as an academy, which is much to be regretted, for the buildings are an ornament to the village and the academy a benefit to this portion of the State. The buildings have been used as a summer boarding place.

There is a handsome meeting house here, built some sixty or seventy years ago by the Free-will Baptist denomination, as were the Academy buildings. Rev. Reuben Allen preached here between 1830 and 1840. During this time he changed his religious sentiments and became a Congregationist and carried a majority of the church and congregation with him, they held the house. The Free-will Baptists had to build themselves a new house which was a modest affair compared to the first one. Therefore since this division two meetings have been maintained in the village of North Scituate.

The Six Principle Baptists have a meeting house at South Scituate, and another at Kents, some two miles further south where the sect have maintained monthly meetings.

The name of Battey, Angell, Henry, Manchester, Fisk, Mathewson, Winsor, Mowry, Smith, are common in Scituate.

James B. Angell, now President of Michigan University, is a native of this town.

The proprietors of the Hope Factory Village, erected a Hall for a reading room and to hold meetings in. The Methodists have formed a church here and hold their meetings in this hall. They have quite a flourishing society here.

Fiskeville and Jackson villages, had a meeting house erected between them about the year 1840. The Baptist denomination held meetings here for several years, but it was not flourishing. The church soon became extinct. The meeting house was finally purchased by Ex. Gov. Jackson, and it has been converted into tenements.

The Six Principle Baptists have erected a meeting house at Fiskeville Four Corners, in 1873, mainly through the influence and persistent energy of Elder B. B. Cottrell, at a cost of \$1700, and a church was soon organized and Elder Cottrell was its pastor, who still maintains that position. The church is quite flourishing.

Among some of the early settlers who resided in Fiskeville Arkwright and vicinity, we may mention Philip Fiske, Stephen Potter, the Congdon family, Dr. Baker, Dr. Almon C. Whitman, Edward Congdon, George James Adams, Caleb Ray. Henry W. Emmons, kept a dry goods store here for many years. Drs. Baker and Whitman both had a large professional practice and stood high in their profession. Doctor

Baker died some thirty years ago. Dr. Whitman died in 1879 and his widow died March 1889.

Dr. Caleb Fiske, the father of Philip Fiske, lived about two miles north of Fiskeville, in Scituate, was one of the most *eminent physicians in the State*, and for those times was considered a very wealthy man. He died about the year 1834. Dr. Baker was one of his students. The Dr. Fiske house was built previous to the Revolutionary war, and General Lafayette stopped there with his suite on his way to Boston, to dine. Miss. Rhoby Knight, daughter of the proprietor of the house, a young lady of some 15 or 16 years of age, passed through the room where Lafayette and suite were dining. He was so pleased with her beauty and appearance, that he took out his snuff box, gave it to her and told her "To always keep it to remember him." She afterwards married Col. Henry Wightman, a Colonel in the Rhode Island Militia at that time. The box has been preserved in the family with great care. It is now in the hands of Miss. Hattie Budlong, Providence.

We return to Phenix again to give some further facts respecting this enterprising village of which Kent County may well feel proud.

In 1827, Rev. Henry Tatem preached in the School-house in this village to crowded houses, and until the erection of the Meeting house in 1829. This was the first Meeting-house erected on the North-west Branch of the Pawtuxet River. An Act of Incorporation was granted at the January Session of the Legislature in 1833, to Henry Tatem, Nicholas G. Potter, Benjamin R. Allen, Caleb Potter, Sheldon Colvin, Cyril Babcock, Ray Atwood, Cyrus Manchester, George P. Prosser, Reuben Wright, and William Warner. These were some of the principle and leading men of Phenix at that time. Rev.

Henry Tatem was considered more than a common eloquent preacher. He continued to preach in this Meeting-house until difficulties broke out which divided the church in 1837. During these ten years of Elder Tatem's pastorate, there were what was called "Great revivals of religion. On several occasions he baptized large numbers in the Phenix Pond. and he seemid to have a large and flourising church. During his pastorate he renounced Free Masonry and became a violent political Anti Mason. He preached without a salary and supported himself and family by following the business of a Merchant Taylor at Natic where he resided. He was intimate with Hon. William Sprague, uncle of the present Hon. William and the Hon. Amasa Sprague; who often called on Rev. Mr. Tatem, at his tailor's shop, and talked politics with him. After the difficulty in Tatem's church, spoken of in thd foregoing, the Rev. Nicholas Potter preached to the church for a few months, but the church became feeble, and sold their Meeting-house to Josiah Chapin of Providence. The Congregationalists then held it and the Rev. Russell Allen preached there a short time. Afterwards the Methodists hired the house and in 1842 purchased it. Governor Harris bought it, moved it and made tenements of it. The Methodists built a new Meeting-house on the same spot which is now the house the Phenix Methodist Church worship in. It is quite a handsome and convenient Meeting-house and is an ornament to the village. The Methodists for many years have had a large and flourishing church here. Gov. Elisha Harris and his family were members of, and one of its strongest patrons. Ex. Gov. Howard, who married one of his daughters, is a member here and a strong supporter of religion and morality.

The Six Principle Baptists formed a branch of the Maple Root Church here and Elder Thomas Tillinghast preached once a month in the school houses at Arkwright and Phenix villages, until a Meeting-house was built for him at Phenix in 1838, which was the second Meeting-house erected in that village for religious purposes. The building committee were; Dea. Johnson, William Ames, and Robert Levalley. The house was about sixty feet long and thirty feet wide with eighteen feet posts and cost \$3000, which for them, in those times, was a large sum; larger than the church could pay. It was finally sold to Dr. McGregor for \$1000, and then to William B. Spencer, who converted it into tenements in 1851. The scattered fragments of the church as we have already said, finally united with brethren and sisters of the same faith at what was then called Birch Hill, but now in the village of River Point and still worship there.

In 1841, Rev. Jonathan Brayton commenced his labors here in the Phenix School-house and the School-house at Natic, but his audience increased so that the School-house at Phenix could not hold them and they hired the Tatem Meeting house, then owned by Dea. Josiah Chapin, of Providence, for two weeks. Great religious awakening attended these meetings and many were converted, so there seemed to be a necessity of forming a Baptist church immediately. Therefore the brethren and sisters in Phenix and vicinity, 25 in number, formed themselves into a church and were publicly recognized as such Jan. 20, 1842. The church assumed the name of the "Lippitt and Phenix Baptist Church." The male members were; Rev. Jonathan Brayton, Thomas S. Wightman, William B. Spencer, Jeremiah Franklin, John B. Tanner, Benjamin Gardiner, Richard Gorton, Stephen Greene and Robert Card, and sixteen females. There were nineteen

others excepted candidates, which increased the numbers to forty-four. On January 30, twenty-nine persons were baptized. From Jan. 30, to Mar. 6, seventy-seven were baptized and united with the church. Among them were some of the first and most substantial citizens of Phenix and vicinity, such as Lodowick and Samuel Brayton, brothers of the Rev. Jonathan Brayton. Necessity now compelled them to build a meeting-house, as the school-house was not large enough to hold the audience which attended the meetings. The Phenix Manufacturing Company, generously gave the lot. A house was built 48 by 36 feet, for \$1800. The vestry was afterwards finished and the whole expense was only \$3000. Rev. Jonathan Brayton, was the instrument in the hands of God in building up this church, and was its first pastor. After he resigned the church had several pastors. Rev. Christopher Rhodes was pastor nearly six years, and during his pastorate the congregation increased so that the house was not large enough to hold them. A committee was appointed to enlarge, or to build a new house. The old meeting-house was sold and a new one was built on the west side of the river. William B. Spencer gave the lot. The whole expense of the house was \$18,437.14. It has a handsome clock in the steeple and a good sounding bell that weighs 1609 pounds. As was said on a former occasion, it is one of the handsomest and most convenient meeting houses in the rural part of the State.

There are several stores in Phenix for the sale of groceries and dry-goods and several other branches of business are carried on here as in cities and large towns, so that citizens can get accommodated for most everything they want. Joseph Lawton keeps a first class clothing store. There are two country hotels in the village.

About the year of 1837, Messrs. Greene and Pike, erected in their village, called Clyde, a building to be used as a school-house and a meeting-house for a small church of the "Swedenborgian, or New Jerusalem Church." The Hon. Simon Henry Greene, used to act as leader in the service, in the absence of the pastor.

The Meeting-house at Natic was built by Messrs. A. and W. Sprague and they generously gave the rent of it, free of charge, to the Baptists.

The First Baptist Church of Natic, was organized on the 23, of November, 1839. It was composed of sixteen persons of regular Baptist churches in other places, but who resided in this village. The church was publicly recognized by a council formed by the neighboring churches on the 25, of December following, and received into the Warren Association Sept. 9, 1840. The first person received by baptism into the church was Sister S. Thornton, May 24, 1840, who was baptized by Rev. Thomas Tew, the father of George P. Tew of this city. Rev. Arthur A. Ross, became pastor of this church Nov. 16, 1840, but he remained such only a few months. In 1842, a large number joined the church. Rev. Jonathan Brayton, accepted the pastorate of this church and remained such until June 1844, at the same time he was pastor of the church at Phenix. April 25, 1847, Rev. Arthur A. Ross, was again called to the pastorate of the church, and remained such for nearly five years. During this pastorate a great revival of religion broke out in this church, and several prominent persons embraced religion, and joined the church. The Meeting-house, during this revival was crowded with eager listeners and anxious souls. The village of Natic was never so happy before. In December 1851, Rev. Step-

hen Thomas became pastor and remained there nearly four years. The church had several pastors afterwards. Rev. O. P. Fuller, while he was a student in Brown University preached for them six months.

The closing part of the year 1857, was the time of the great revival all through the country and forty-one persons united with this church. This was under the pastorate of Rev. George Mathews. Several years afterwards, when the Rev. Warren Emory was pastor, seventy-five joined the church by baptism. In 1871, the church sustained a great loss in the death of Dea. George W. Harrington, who had served the church faithfully as deacon since May 1859, a period of twelve years. In the year 1875, the church sustained a greater loss in the death of Dea. Moses Whitman, who had been connected with the church since 1842. A highly complimentary notice of his life, was published in the *Watchman and Reflector* of Jan. 15, 1875. This church is still in a flourishing condition, but it is rather a melancholy thought that the Spragues, Rhodes, Rices, Bakers, Warners, Ballous, Knowles, Arnolds, Whitmans, Simmons, and hundreds of others, residents of Natic and vicinity, have all passed away.

Pontaic village is the next below Natic, An Episcopal church was organized April 9, 1869. The Rev. E. H. Porter, was its first Rector. Messrs. B. B. and R. Knight, the proprietors of Pontaic Mills and village, tendered to the parish for church purposes, a room neatly fitted up with sittings and chancel furniture, and also a residence for the Rector, without rental, and have always been liberal contributors to the fund for the Rector's salary. The church bears the name of "All Saint's Parish Pontaic."

The first settlers of Providence were pious people. Some of them were probably members of the Church of England. Roger Williams, himself, was an ordained minister of the Puritan order, but he and his associates, were all convinced, that Scripture baptism was to be immersed in water. There being no minister among them, who had been immersed, nor any professor of religion among them who had been thus baptized, and, as they wished to form a church of immersed members, agreeably to the command of the New Testament, they selected Ezekiel Holliman, a pious and gifted man to baptize Roger Williams, who in turn then baptized Mr. Holliman and the others. These men were the first members of the "First Baptist Church," of this city. This was its origin, and from this church, thus established, sprang all the Baptist churches in this State and Nation. This took place in A. D., 1639. Three years after this event, one half of the constituent members of this church settled in the town of Warwick. They were, John Greene, Richard Waterman, Francis Weston, Ezekiel Holliman, William Arnold, and Stuteley Westcott, all then residing in Providence, but these brethren still continued their connection with the First Baptist Church of Providence, and attended the same as often as they conveniently could. In January 1730, the large township of Providence, was divided into four towns, and every town had a Meeting-house, but the church worshipping in them, were branches from the First Baptist church in Providence. At this time there were nine towns on the main land, all of which had Baptist Churches. One of these churches was in Old Warwick, probably not over half a mile from where the "Shawomet Baptist Church," is now located. The earliest records of this church are dated 1741, but the origin of the body must have been as early as 1725. It is said

that there is no original records of the First Baptist Church, previous to April 1775. The records of the First Baptist Church were probably burnt, when the village of Providence was burned by the Narragansett Indians, in King Philip's War in 1676. In 1730, the Old Warwick Church consisted of sixty-five members under the pastoral care of Elder Manassah Martin. He served the church as pastor thirty years, and died March 20, 1754, and lies buried near the site of the meeting-house where he preached. A heavy slab marks the spot, where he and his wife lay. In 1757, Charles Holden was ordained as pastor of this church. He remained pastor until old age compelled him to retire. He died June 20, 1785, in his 90th. year. He lies buried in a quiet spot, some thirty or forty rods west of the residence of John Wickes Greene, Esq. John Holden of Cranston, was a lineal descendent of his, and so is Dea. Robert Holden of the Cranston St. Baptist church. By the will of Elder Holden, his slaves were liberated, and some provision made for them. After Elder Holden became feeble, Benjamin Sheldon was ordained as assistant pastor, in June 1778. October 10, 1782, Abraham Lippitt, was ordained as an assistant pastor of this church. In 1793, Elder Lippitt removed to what was then called "the west," and this church called Samuel Littlefield to the to the pastoral office, and he was ordained in 1794. He continued to preach until about 1825. This Meeting-house was probably erected as early as 1730, though the date is not known. It was in a state of delapidation and was taken down in 1830, one hundred years after its erection. This church was an offshoot of the First Baptist Church of Providence.

The Maple Root church of Coventry, was a child of this. The Baptists, in country towns built their Meeting-houses

nearly square, two stories high, without a steeple, tower, or bell. The seats were very plain, all without paint; but some within fifty years have conformed a little to modern fashion. The Six Principle Baptist ministers preached without a salary. They simply take what their friends give them, which is often a "mere pittance."

The Old Baptist Meeting-house here had become so dilapidated, that it was unfit to hold meetings in and a new house was built and dedicated in 1829. Rev. William Manchester preached the dedicatory sermon. Elder Job Manchester became the pastor. He was a successful pastor and the first year of his ministry he baptized twenty-two persons. He resigned in 1843 and removed to Providence, joined the Stewart Street Church, and died Aug. 9, 1869, aged 75 years.

A few members of the Old Warwick church, resided in Apponaug village, called then "Fulling Mill." They were desirous of forming a church in that village. In December 1744, the Old Warwick church gave Benjamin Peirce and wife, Ezrikham Peirce and wife, Edward Case and wife, John Budlong, and such others as wished to form a church at Fulling Mill, of the same faith and order to do so. Benjamin Peirce, was ordained as their minister. They erected a Meeting-house 26 by 28 feet, two stories high. The church after a few years was dissolved, but soon after the close of the Revolutionary War, another church was organized, about the year 1785. David Corpe, a member of the East Greenwich church, from which the present one was set off, became their pastor. They occupied the old Meeting-house, which they repaired. Elder Spooner was his successor. In 1805, the church became extinct. That is, in twenty years from its organization. The Meeting-house was taken down and put into dwelling houses.

What is called the Six Principle Baptist, had held meetings in the Old Warwick Meeting-house from the early settlement of the town, but seem to be now passing away. In 1842, the Rhode Island Baptist State Convention, sent the Rev. Jonathan E. Forbush to labor there and some religious interest followed his labors. In October 1842, five brethren and eleven sisters, met at the residence of John W. Greene, appointed a committee of three to wait upon the members of the Old Six Principle Baptist Church, and confer with them respecting the formation of what is called the "Shawomet Baptist Church." Nov. 16, 1842, the church was formed at the Old Six Principle Baptist Meeting-house, by a council from the Providence, Phenix, Pawtuxet and East Greenwich Baptist churches. It had then but thirteen members with Rev. J. E. Forbush as pastor. Benjamin Greene was chosen Deacon and John Holden, Clerk. In 1845, the church united with the Warren Association. Mr. Forbush closed his labors in March 1845. Rev. Alfred Colburn was his successor. The membership was now thirty. In 1850, Rev. George A. Willard became pastor and remained such until May 1859. There were two other pastors prior to 1866, when there were fifty-four members, Rev. J. Torrey Smith, was pastor of this church near fourteen years. They built a new Meeting-house some two years ago, which was burnt. They immediately went to work and built another handsomer and more convenient house than the one burnt. It has dismissed to other churches quite a large number of members. Its present number is seventy-one. Rev. S. E. Frohock is pastor.

The Warwick and East Greenwich Free-will Baptist church is situated on the plain, about half a mile north of the vill-

age of Apponaug. The church was organized Dec. 25, 1841, but they worshipped in various places, chiefly in the Meeting-house a mile north, near the "High-house." Rev. Geo. Champlain was the pastor, and continued in this relation for some fifteen years. This church in the time of the "Dorr War," a large majority of it was of the "Law and Order," party, while the members of this Greenwood church where the church held meetings, were of the "Dorr Party." Therefore, the house was closed against the Apponaug church, which was for the "Law and Order" party. Therefore, they made arrangements to build on the plain half a mile north of Apponaug village. Governor John Brown Francis, Dutee Arnold, and George T. Spicer, interested themselves to aid them in this enterprise. Gov. Francis drew up a Subscription Paper and on that paper is

Gov. Francis and daughter	\$ 75.00
Gov. William Sprague and daughter, Mrs. Hoyt,	75.00
Dutee Arnold and daughter Marcy,	50.00
John Carter Brown,	50.00
C. and W. Rhodes,	25.00
George T. Spicer,	20.00

Stephen Budlong gave the land on which the Meeting-house was built. The house was erected in 1844, at a cost of \$1275. This house was destroyed by fire in August 1872. The church bought the house which was owned and occupied by the North or Greenwood church and moved it to where theirs was burnt, which is the house they now occupy.

The Central Free-will Baptist Church, of Apponaug, was organized by the Rev. Benjamin Phelan, who, on the Third Sabbath in August 1835, baptized and formed into a church the following individuals: Hon. William D. Brayton, Alexander Havens, William Harrison, Thomas W. Harrison,

Elizabeth Wickes, Catharine Westcott and Mary E. Wilbur. The first Deacon was Alexander Havens. William D. Brayton was Clerk. Rev. Mr. Phelan had two pastorates of this church, in all, twenty-two years. He died in this city ten or fifteen years ago, in the firm belief of the doctrine he had so long preached. This church is still doing good work for the Master. They have a handsome and convenient Meeting-house. Hon. William D. Brayton, was a member of this church when he died. He maintained his faith in Christ "to the last of earth." His father was an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court from 1827 to 1835, and his brother, Hon. George A. Brayton, was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from 1868 to 1875. So we see that the village of Apponaug has shared in the honors of the State.

The First Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends held in Warwick, on record, was in the house of John Briggs, in 1699. Meetings were held in the house of Jabez Greene, probably until their Meeting-house was built. The Greenwich Monthly Meeting then embraced what is now the counties of Providence, Kent and Washington in Rhode Island. They erected a Meeting-house sometime between 1716 and 1720. The Society of Friends although never very numerous in Rhode Island, yet they have always been a wealthy and an influential body in the State, and for morality and virtue, and integrity, they have no superiors.

The Society of Friends, built a Meeting-house in the north part of Anthony village, Coventry, in 1826. The leading men in forming the church, and erecting the Meeting-house were: Perez Peck, Daniel Anthony, Asa Sisson, Marenus Parker, Nicholas D. Greene, and some others who did not live in the village. Daniel Anthony, was an uncle of the late

Senator Anthony and the Poet, so favorably spoken of, in our former paper.

This Meeting-house is a very modest affair, but perfectly consistent with the modest and unassuming principles of this worthy people. Many of the first citizens of the village and vicinity, attended meetings there on the sabbath, and, although all of the original projectors and members, have all passed away, meetings are still held there as formerly. William Anthony, the father of the late Senator, always attended meetings here as long as he lived.

A Meeting-house was built by the Society of Friends, in the town of Cranston, in the Shanticut brook valley about a half mile west of the Rail-road station now known as Oak Lawn, in 1732, and known as the Cranston Friend's Meeting-house. Regular weekly and monthly Meetings were held here by them until about 1860. In 1866, the Friends having most all died, their Meetings were discontinued. For more than one hundred years previous, it had been a noted place. Mrs. Anna Jenkins, a celebrated preacher of the Society, preached in this house, the sabbath before she was burnt to death, in her own house, with her oldest daughter. (November 20, 1849,). It is said, that in this, her last sermon, she seemed to have a presentiment that this was to be her last appearance before the public.

Lodowick Brayton bought the house and gave it to the Baptists, who have maintained meetings there ever since.

They have recently built them a new and more commodious Meeting-house, and have an organized Baptist church there, which is somewhat flourishing.

The first Roman Catholic church was commenced in Crompton, Sept. 23, 1844. It was a small building located on the hill-side of the village overlooking the country for miles and was styled the "Church of our Lady of Mount Carmel." This house was erected during the pastorate of Rev. James Fitton, but was soon placed under the pastoral care of Rev. James Gibson, who enlarged the church building, making it 108 feet long, by 50 feet wide. The church has a tower twelve feet square and forty-five feet high, containing a sweet toned bell, weighing 1400 pounds, and a pastoral residence thirty by twenty-eight feet, with a lot of land containing eight and a quarter acres, the whole enclosed by a handsome stone wall.

Mr. Gibson has likewise erected at River Point, another Roman Catholic church, thirty-one by forty-five feet. The Crompton parish has been divided into five separate parishes, each one with its handsome church edifice and its resident priest.

The Phenix Catholic parish, once a part of Crompton parish, was made a separate one in 1858 and placed under the charge of Rev. Dr. Wallace. He remained pastor about seven years. The house to hold the meetings in was a small one, being the former Episcopal church. It was soon too small to accommodate the large congregation, so Dr. Wallace purchased of the Baptist Society their Meeting-house. This too, has been a flourishing parish, as have most all the Roman Catholic parishes in the State.

There is a Roman Catholic church in the village of Natic, erected about the year 1882.

Another in the village of Apponaug.

All these churches are well filled on the sabbath and are well sustained.

There are two Second Advent churches in the town of Warwick, one in Artic, the other in Natic villages, but they have never accomplished any great work.

There is a handsome village of six hundred inhabitants, located on the Great plain in Warwick, about three and a half miles south-west of the village of Pawtuxet and nearly a mile south-east of the Pawtuxet river, called "Hill's Grove," in honor of its enterprising founder, Thomas J. Hill, Esq. When he purchased the estate, there was but one farm house, where now are sixty dwelling houses, a large cotton factory of twenty thousand spindles for the manufacture of thread and cotton yarn, and a large Malleable Iron Foundry; both these concerns employ three hundred and sixty-five hands, and turn off annually three hundred and fifty thousand dollars worth of goods. William G. James, is agent.

There is a Methodist Meeting-house here which is well filled on each returning sabbath. Rev. Mr. Anderson, is now pastor, who took the place of Rev. William Stetson, who was pastor for the three years previous. Mr. Hill, gave the lot and two thousand dollars towards building the house. His wife gave the furnishings for it.

Mr. Hill has from twelve to fifteen men in his employ, who have each worked for him from twenty to forty-four years. This speaks well for both employer and employed. Not many concerns can make such a statement.

Peleg Arnold and Abraham Sheldon, donated a peice of land for religious purposes in Pawtuxet in 1764 and 1765. It is not known, however, that a Meeting-house was erected. Probably there was such a house at that time. The Baptist Meeting-house was erected in Pawtuxet in 1803, but the

church was formed in 1806. The first pastor was Rev. Ferdinand Ellis, settled in 1807 and left in 1810. Next pastor was Rev. Bela Jacobs in 1811, who remained until 1818. Rev. Mr. Curtis, from 1818 to 1819, and then became pastor and left in 1822. Rev. Flavel Shurtleff, was pastor from 1822 to 1832. Then Rev. B. Minor, from 1833 to 1834. Rev. Abial Fisher, from 1834 to 1836. Several other pastors have been settled over this church up to the present time. Among them were Rev. Foster Henry and Rev. J. B. Child. The present pastor is Rev. C. W. Burnham, who politely furnished me with most of the statistics relating to this church. The present Meeting-house was built in 1855 and 1856. Dr. Wayland assisted in the dedication. It now numbers one hundred and eight members. The house and lot have been very much improved within two years. The church now seems to be in a prosperous condition.

A small Episcopal church was formed here a few years since and this interest is still kept up. A flourishing church may yet grow out of this branch.

The village of Pawtuxet was once a flourishing place. The State Fair was held here. The Baptist Meeting-house was the place where the addresses were delivered before the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry. James, Gen. Christopher and William Rhodes, and Tully Dorrence, all early manufacturers and other prominent men resided here. It was once a place of considerable coasting trade. It has a safe and protected harbor. The water power is considerable. The time is not distant when Pawtuxet village will rise to more importance than ever.

Hon. Christopher Spencer, a resident of Old Warwick, kept a country store for forty-five years. He was a member of

the Town Council for fifteen years and part of that time its President. He represented the Town in the State Legislature four years and was one of the ten Senators under the Old Charter Government four years and one year a Representative under the present Constitution. In January 1844, he received twenty-six votes for United States Senator. He was a man of sound judgment and of the strictest integrity. He died honored and respected in 1870, aged eighty-seven years 1 cking seven days. He was the father of William Spencer, who has been connected with the city Government, as Councilman and Alderman, for sixteen years, and is the oldest Grocer in the city.

Gideon Spencer represented this Town in the Legislature several years, and was the originator and manufacturer of the famous medicine, known as "Spencer's Vegetable Pills."

Hon. Thomas Remington represented the Town of Warwick in both branches of the State Legislature several years, and stood deservedly high in the estimation of his townsmen.

Capt. Elisha Brown represented the Town some years in the State Legislature and was highly respected.

John R. Waterman represented the Town in both branches of the State Legislature and was very influential as a man and politician.

The Town of Warwick has furnished the State with several Governors and Senators and Representatives in Congress, but none more able or gentlemanly than the Hon. John Brown Francis. As a presiding officer he had no superior in the State. He was Governor from 1833 to 1838 and Senator in Congress from 1844 to 1845. He was noted for his benevolence and his assistance to those who needed aid.

The following are names of some of the early settlers of the Town of Warwick. Gorton, Holden, Carder, Arnold,

Greene, Potter, Warner. Spencer, Waterman, Rhodes, Barton, Holliman, Lippitt, Westcott, Brayton, Smith, Wickes, Stafford, Lowe, Collins, Holmes, Burton, Howard, Sweet, Wilbur, Easton, Dyer, Baker, Hill, Coddington, Clark, Rice, Budlong, Porter, Field and Tibbetts.

In our First Paper, we spoke of the accidental death of Russell Briggs, as the only accident of a disastrous nature which happened for years in that valley, but now they are a common occurrence all through the country. The terrible calamity which has just happened at Johnstown, in the Conemaugh valley Pennsylvania on the 31st. of last May, has brought to mind a similar calamity which occurred at Hon. James F. Simmons's villages, in the town of Johnston forty-nine years ago. This was on the Pocasset River a tributary of the Pawtuxet. In that case, his upper reservoir dam gave way in a severe rain storm and carried off four other dams below it, two dwelling houses, the store building, his machine shop, and a shed. Eighteen persons were drowned. Every dead body was recovered, although one was not recovered until the June following. The accident occurred April 13, 1840, about five o'clock in the morning. This was a dreadful calamity and people talked about it for years afterwards, but as great as it was, the greatest that ever occurred in Rhode Island, up to that time or perhaps since, yet the damage in money, amounted to only twelve thousand dollars. This was thought to be dreadful at the time, and so it was, but what was it to that which has just happened to the city of Johnstown, the villages of Cambria, Woodvale, Conemaugh, and others, in the Conemaugh Valley, Pennsylvania, where the loss of life will probably amount to ten thousand and the loss of property some thirty million dollars. No calamity

equals it since the Christian Era, except the burying up of Pompeia by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, eighteen hundred years ago. The Ocean breaking the Dyke at Dort in Holland, A. D. 1445, when one hundred thousand persons were drowned. The Plague in London, in 1665, when 68596 persons died. The Great Fire there in 1666, when 13200 houses and 89 churches were burnt, covering over 436 acres.

There are now over forty-five churches in the Valley of the Pawtuxet and its branches, where the Narragansett Indians once roamed at large, hunting the panther, bear, wolf, moose, deer, buffalo and other wild game, and sometimes were engaged in bloody wars, which too often occurred between these savage tribes, who then claimed this pleasant country. This may account for the extreme barbarous and savage state, in which the aborigines of this country were found, when America was discovered. There is abundant evidence that a high state of civilization existed in the southern parts of America. By savage wars among themselves they degenerated into the *extreme savage state* our forefathers found them. It is peace, christianity, social and commercial intercourse, which promotes a higher state of civilization.

The American Continent had for unknown centuries remained an uncultivated waste, but now the Great and Beneficent Creator, looks down upon a country teeming with well cultivated fields. The rivers utilized, furnishing employment to many thousands. Flourishing cities and villages are alive with a thriving population. Elegant temples to worship in from whence songs of praise and thanksgiving are now ascending to heaven on every sabbath. In the language of President Jackson, when he occupied the Executive Chair of the

Nation, we will say that "Although it is a sad thought, that we are treading on the graves of extinct nations, yet the Great Creator of the Universe must look down with a smile of approbation on this great improvement, made by European Protestant Christian civilization." All the world can exclaim, "See what the Lord hath wrought through the instrumentality of Christian Men."

We have slightly scanned over the valley of the beautiful and useful Pawtuxet, noting the improvements which have been made since its first settlement by the European races. We have derived a pleasure in thus reviewing its history, yet there is a tinge of melancholy in thus going over it, in the thought that those who laid the foundation of this great improvement, have forever passed away, never to return here to witness the work, they have been the instruments of accomplishing.


The past never returns. It is the present and future, that loom up before us. We gaze on the past as we do on the setting sun. The sun will rise again tomorrow, but there is no morning to the past. It is one eternal night. We may truly say:

Time hath rose in his might, spread his wings o'er the river,
And like the eagle has flown in the distance afar,
And gazes down on the waters he cannot destroy,
The hills and valleys he has left there.

The rocks and the trees, the fields and the meadows,
With the wild flowers blooming as sweetly as ever,
The sun will shine, and the rain fall upon them,
But those who once enjoyed them, have left us forever.

THE WILCOX FAMILIES.

By Rev. S. P. Merrill, Rochester, N. Y.

 HE name WILCOX, like all our patronymics is variously spelled. It is a name dating back to an early period in English history.

Its first appearance so far as the writer's researches have yet extended, is at the battle of Agincourt, where one, "Wilcox or Wilcott," (both names being given,) is recorded as furnishing three men at arms. Another of the name is found as Court Physician to one of the Kings Charles. Another, in the last century, was a Bishop of the Church of England and Dean of Westminster Abbey, wherein he lies buried and his memory is commemorated by a fine monument erected by his son, the last of his family.

In the English County histories, there are many of this name mentioned.

Heraldry gives several Coats of Arms, as worn by Wilcox families. A few of these may be *partially* indicated here in order to give a clue to any who may wish to pursue further research.

Berry's Encyclopedia Heraldica gives the Arms of Wilcocke, Lord of Mowthly, Wales, as a lion rampant etc.

Of another, the Arms are an eagle displayed, and on a mount, a dove. (*Vol. I. page 31, 32.*)

In the Heraldic Visitation of Wales, (*Vol. II. page 242,*) interesting references are made to Wilcox Coat of Arms.

In Burke's General Armory, there is given the Arms of Wilcocks, of Worcestershire, three cocks heads, erased, with a crest of the fleur-de-lis. Also there is given the Arms of Wilcox, alias Nowers, of Liecestershire, 1732, a demi-eagle, displayed. Also the Arms of Wilcoxon, Arthur of Peckham, Rye, co. Kent, Esq., a lion's gamb, erect, holding in paw a fleur-de-lis encircled by a wreath of oak.

Also Wilcoxs, of Brighthingsea, co. Essex, a lion rampant, between three crescents.

Also Wilcoxs, of London and Shropshire, 1634, the same as above.

Also Wilcoxs, of Kent, a lion rampant.

There are several Wilcox families in the United States which have one or other of these Coats of Arms. F. W. Wilcox, of Kalamazoo, Michagan, has a Coat of Arms of Thomas Wilcox, of Tortonhane Court, High Cross, county of Middlesex, England.

Mr. J. Freeland Wilcox, of Brooklyn, has a Coat of Arms and pedigree, beautifully copied in a handsomely bound volume. Besides this, he has the Arms carved in wood, in the form of an elegant stand.

This article however, employs itself chiefly with a brief and let us hope, as far as it goes, an accurate consideration of

The Wilcox Families of America.

Filial interest and patriotic pride are leading many persons in our day to investigate the records of the early settlement and history of our country with reference to their ancestral relation thereto. Moved by such an impulse, the writer, began in 1885, to make researches as to the Wilcox Family, of which his mother was a descendent.

These researches have been pursued at odd moments snatched from the hours of a busy life. Hence the slow accumulation of the facts derived and the fragmentary nature of the work at present.

These papers are put forth as a Report of Progress, and as an *Incentive* to those acquainted with the facts and interested in the further pursuit of the subject. It is with the hope that many may be led to co-operate in the effort to get all the records at hand that we offer the information here afforded.

As we have seen, Wilcox and Wilcoxson are names of honor and renown in Old England. They are frequently met with in history of Town and Country, of Army and Navy, of Church and State. The families in several branches are known to heraldry.

Because of these facts, it is no wonder that the name is found in the beginnings of our Colonial history. But that there should be so many of the name at this early period is to the writer an unexpected revelation.

In general we shall make mention of these Families in the order in which they have appeared in the country.

The Virginia Wilcoxes.

The Virginia Wilcoxes are found at Jamestown, Va., as early as 1610. Michael or Mihell, came that year at the age of thirty-one, in the ship *Prosperous*. In the Index of Patents. at Richmond, Bk. I. p. 739, Michael appears as from Upper Norfolk Co., and assigns land, then in his possession. The records of this book date from 1623 to 1643. In connection with Mihell, Maudlin Wilcox is mentioned as at Bass's Choice, Va.

In 1621, by the ship *Concord*, (*Bergen Family Genealogy*, page 45, note ³) came Elizabeth Wilcox. She is in this book conjectured to be the wife of Michael.

In 1620, Captain John Wilcocks came in the *Bona Nova* to Accomac, Va. His wife's name was Temperance. They emigrated from Plymouth, England. He made his will in Elizabeth City, September 10, 1622, as he intended going against the Indians. His will was proved the last of June 1628. In it he makes mention of his wife Temperance and his daughter-in-law Grace Burgess, legitimate daughter of his wife, and of his sisters Catharine and Susannah Wilcocks.

In Hutton's list of names of the living 16th. February 1623, is mentioned that of Captain John Wilcox, on the Eastern shore. From this it would appear, that John, of Va., left no sons at his death in 1628.

On the 21st. of May, 1635, (*Hutton's Lists*, page 80) Nico. Wilcox, aged 21, embarks in the *Mathew*, of London, for St. Christopher's. There is no evidence that he came to the Colonies.

In 1638, September 11th., Richard Wilcox makes an assignment of a patent for 700 acres of land lying in Chickahominy river. (*Book I. page 758.*) This Richard was perhaps the son of Michael. Of these settlers there are no doubt many descendants, but little is known of them to the writer. *Sullewants Genealogy*, is said by Derrie, to give their records, but no book by such an author, has been found in any of the many libraries consulted.

The Two Williams.

William, of Cambridge, Mass., and probably of Dorchester too at nearly the same time, was a freeman in 1636. In 1638, he is mentioned as being a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company.

His wife was probably Mary Powell, and this marriage took place the 22nd. of January, 1650. He died the 28th. of

November, 1653. In his will, (*New England His. Gen. Reg. Vol. XVI. page 76.*) no mention is made of any children, or male descendents of the name. A memorandum of debts due his estate names Barbadoes, where he probably traded. It has been supposed that this widow is the Mary Wilcox who married the 9th of January, 1654, to Jacob Elliott, brother of John, the Apostle to the Indians.

William Wilcoxson, with his wife Margaret and son John, then two years of age, came from St. Albans in Hertfordshire, England, by the ship Planter. They landed the 26th. of May, 1635-6, probably at Concord, Massachusetts. (*Orcutt's Brighton and Cambridge, page 89.*) Though this as yet is not fully certain. They removed to Windsor, Conn., and then to Stratford. On their arrival, William was aged thirty-four years and his wife twenty-four. They became the parents of a large family of children and from them probably a larger number can trace their descent, than those who are related to the Rhode Island Wilcoxes. Some slight differences in the order of the birth of their children, as given by different records render it difficult as yet to be assured of perfect accuracy, but we hope to be able to get at the facts by means of this article. Savage gives them as John, Joseph, Samuel, Obadiah, Timothy, Elizabeth, Hannah, Sarah, Phebe. Judge Henry Beals Wilcox, of Madison, Conn., gives them as Timothy, John, Joseph, Obadiah, Samuel Elizabeth, Sarah, Phebe, Hannah. Both give nine as the number of children consisting of five sons and four daughters.

John and Timothy, (Dea.) settled in Stratford, Conn., about 1713. Samuel went to Simsbury as one of its proprietary settlers. To him with others, seemed the first patent for the land is made, and also the deed from the Indians. Joseph

settled in Killingworth and Obadiah in Madison, Conn. The children of Timothy were all daughters. From the other sons a large number of descendents have sprung with whom Connecticut history has much to do. The name of this line was originally *Wilcoxson*, but the last syllable was generally dropped about the middle of the eighteenth century. There is a line of the family however, which still retains the original name in full.

The Two Johns.

John, of Hartford, Conn., has the career of a wanderer. He is first in Dorchester, then he appears as one of the proprietary settlers of Hartford, where he lives in 1639. His wife Mary is mentioned later on. In 1642 and 1644, he is surveyor of highways, a juror in 1643. In 1648, he is called Senior. (*Whitmore.*) He removed to Middletown, was complained of for not residing there, returned to Dorchester and came back again to Middletown, Conn., (*Hartford Records*, page 98.) His children are here given as Sarah, Lucy, Israel, Ephraim, Hester, Mary. The New England Historical Genealogical Register, Vol. XVI, page 65, says, Richard, Samuel and John. There was no doubt a son John who lived at Middletown.

John, of Hartford, died before 1666. Scaeva's Hartford, page 296 says he died 14th. October 1651. The date of his birth has been given as 1595. He was, according to the Connecticut Colonial Records, a man of many lawsuits notices of which may be found in Vol. II, as taking place in 1647, 1649, 1653. This last date would be rather late for such actions if Scaeva's figures above were correct.

It would seem that the facts as to the history of John Wilcox, of Hartford, ought to challenge research by some one who loves Hartford history. His name stands recorded on the monument erected in Hartford by the Ancient Burying Ground Association, to its first settlers.

John, of Rhode Island.

We believe that this is the first time that the name John Wilcox has been given as that of one of the first settlers of Rhode Island, but we believe that the facts here set forth will show that the first settler of Narragansett, along with Roger Williams as a trader, was not Edward Wilcox, but John Wilcox. It will be seen that he also was a great wanderer, now appearing in Virginia, (probably) and now at the Delaware, in the Swedish Governor's Colony. He is found also in Manhattan and was probably the owner of a farm at Breshwick, L. I., before 1638. He is the owner of the ship Abigail. As a trader he is evidently a sturring, driving, somewhat unscrupulous man. He has many suits at law, especially in the years 1645, 46, 47, 48, as set forth in the Calendar of Dutch Manuscripts at Albany. It is from this Calendar, page 95, that in the year 1645, July 15th., it is recorded that Richard Smith complains that def't. John Wilcox traded contrary to contract at his trading house. The case was referred to arbitration. It appears that Richard Smith's trading house among the Dutch was burned, August 30, 1646. There was a case of Thomas Stevensen vs. Elias Perkman, for two-thirds of a ship; at the request of Mr. Smith and Mr. Wilcox, the case is referred to arbitration.

On the 17th. of August. John Evans, of New Haven, merchant, vs. John Wilcox, for the delivery of the ship Abigail, defendant, says he is prepared to deliver said vessel on receipt

of payment; judgement for plaintiff; defendant to obtain security from Gov. Prentz for the payment of a note dated 6, April 1646. The association of the names of Richard Smith and John Wilcox, in the action above set forth, and in others not named, from the date given, when it was known that Richard Smith and a Wilcox had a trading house at Narragansett, would seem to be proof sufficient for the assumption made above, i. e. that the Wilcox named in Arnold's Rhode Island History, Vol. I, page 463, "as the pioneer in Narragansett," is the John Wilcox who preceeded Richard Smith some years.

Taking the records we have already found in regard to this John Wilcox, (and the field has not been gone over by any means) it is evident that this John Wilcox, was a man of mature years at the settlement of Narragansett. Why may it not be that Edward Wilcox, of Aquidneck, 1638, Daniel, of Little Compton, 1634, and Stephen, of Portsmouth, were sons of this John, of Narragansett?

Other Rhode Island Wilcoxes.

From the Colonial Records, the Genealogies, and Austin's Genealogical Dictionary, there are three names of Wilcoxes who deserve to be recorded as among the first settlers. Cf these, prior mention is made of Edward. We are told (by Austin) that this name was in a list of inhabitants of Aquidneck about 1638. Considering the early mention of his name and that he is said to have been the same Edward later on at Kings Towne, there seems to be very little known of him. Vol. XII, page 238, of the New England Historic-Genealogical Register, gives Edward as one of the early settlers of Westerly, Rhode Island, in a list of the free inhabitants, May 18, 1669.

Stephen Wilcox, (Austin) born 1633, lived at Portsmouth and Westerly, R. I. In 1657 and 1658, he is recorded as the owner of land. He was married to Hannah Hazard in 1658, the same year that he was made freeman. In 1670, he was chosen a Deputy. Mr. J. Freeland Wilcox, of Brooklyn, in his handsomely bound pedigree, gives this Stephen, as son of Dionisius, but as this is the only appearance so far as I know of this name it can hardly be so. William A. Wilcox, Attorney, of Scranton, Penn., makes Stephen to be the son of Edward above, and he has published a pamphlet of pedigree in which he mentions the children of Stephen and Hannah (Hazard). Two lists are given, one as Edward, Thomas, Daniel, William, Stephen, Hannah, Jeremiah; the other gives Edward, Stephen, William, Lydia. This Stephen died in 1690. He is on record as being sued for unlawfully holding five hundred acres of land belonging to Harvard College, as claimed by Massachusetts.

Daniel Wilcox appears as a member of the Grand Inquest at Newport from Portsmouth, R. I., in March 1643. (*R. I. Col. Rec., Vol. I, page 76.*) He lived also at Tiverton and at Dartmouth, Mass. He married (*Austin*) 28th. November 1661, Elizabeth Cook. His death occurred 2nd. of July 1702. From the year 1643 and the event then mentioned we give no record of his whereabouts until (*Austin*) in 1656 when he had a grant of one hundred and fifty acres of land. In 1658, he made a sale of some land to Thomas Lawton. In 1661, he is married. His history can be traced from year to year in a very active life. At the organization of the Town of Tiverton, 2nd. of March 1692, he was present. We are disappointed not to be able to give the record of the years between 1643, when his first appearance in public life is noted

and the year 1656. Doubtless careful research in this direction will be rewarded. We cannot give the names of his children, but there is a will published by Austin, page 424, which is proved 25th. of August 1702, the year of his death, which makes mention of children in the following order: Daniel, Samuel, Stephen, John, Susannah, Edward, Thomas, Mary, (wife of John Earle,) Lydia, Sarah, (wife of Edward Briggs,) Joseph, making eleven children in all.

In connection with our supposition as to John Wilcox the trader, we call attention to the fact that in the early genealogies given by Austin, Hannah, who married Samuel Clark, had a son John, Mary Earle, had a son John, Stephen, had a son John, John, had a son John. This frequent occurrence of the name strongly indicates an ancestor of that name.

The Passaic Wilcoxes of New Jersey.

Littell's Passaic Valley, has an account of the " Peter Wilcoxse Family." This immigrant is said to have come from England. The settlement in what is known as Fellsville, was made by English settlers about 1720. Peter was one of the first settlers. At about the same time with him, came James Badgley and his sister from Long Island. This sister, Phebe, was soon afterwards married to Peter Wilcoxse. In 1736, there was surveyed to Peter Wilcoxse four hundred and twenty-four acres of land along the East Shore of Blue Brook. The book named gives several incidents regarding this early settlement and also contains the names of many descendents. Their children were: Peter, William, John, Stephen, Sarah.

Thomas Wilcox, of England, settled at Ivy Mills, Penn. in the year 1727. His wife's name was Elizabeth Cole. They have published a Lithographic Chart of Pedigree. This family established the celebrated Paper Mills which have been claimed to be the first erected in this country, but the claim cannot we think be substantiated. The history of these mills is interesting in connection with the early supply of paper to the Government and to Benjamin Franklin, printer.

Other Wilcoxes.

John Wilcox, of Halifax, N. S., mentioned as coming to Wells Vt. and settling on the north line of the town of Pawlet, in the year 1780, we believe to be one of the descendents of earlier Wilcoxes before named. He had a large family, ys Holister.

In Briggs' history of Concord N. Y., page 48, mention is made of John Wilcox, born in England in 1757 and coming to America in the early days of the Revolution. He enlisted and served in our Army until the close of the war. He married Mary Crosby of New York city and lived in that city for several years, removing thence to Litchfield, Herkimer Co., N. Y., and from there to Sardinia, Erie Co., N. Y., in 1813. They had eleven children; John, Charles, Henrietta, Jeremiah, Hurain, Samuel, Oliver, Mary, Roswell, Polly, Charles. We believe from these names that this family came from Connecticut.

The Dedham, (Mass.) Records, make mention of Edward Wilcox, a settler who was a native of England and died in Dedham the 2nd. of January 1827.

William Wilcox and his wife Margaret (McGuire) with their children Edward, William and Robert, came to this country from Dublin, Ireland, 8th. July 1831. They lived in Jersey City, N. J. Three other children, Julia Ann, Harriet and Robert 2nd., were born in this country.

William Wilcox, of Shorebrook, Canada, came first to New York city, then removed to Illinois, whence he returned to Buckastleigh, Devonshire England, his home. In 1868, he came back to America and made his residence at Shorebrook. His son, William Henry Wilcox, at Mankato, Minn., where he settled in February 1880. He came with his father to this country.

Gavin Rowett McGregor Wilcox, was a native of Newton, Stewart, Kerkenbrigh, Scotland. His parents were John Wilcox and Jessie McGregor. He married at Newburgh, N. Y., 20th. of November 1872, Alice Elvira Van Duser. They have several children.

David Wilcox, also a resident of Newburgh, N. Y., was a native of Predsey near Leeds, in England. He came to this country 11th. of August 1874. He married in England first Martha Hustler, second Mary Amelia Fonchard, 3d. of July 1872. The Carverly old parish records contain the records of the family. The children are Hannah, Anthony, Louisa, Caroline and John.

A nephew of the above, Walter M. Wilcox, came to this country in 1878. He also lives at Newburgh, N. Y.

At Comstock, Kalamazoo Co., Michagan, reside Abraham Wilcox and his wife, Sarah (Tuckett) Wilcox. They are natives of Pollemore, Devonshire, England, where their ances-

tral records may be found. Their family has consisted of eight children: Eliza, John, William, Celia, Anna, Fanny, Jane, Edward, Arthur, of whom all are living but the last.

John Pickwick Wilcox, lives in Chicago, Illinois. He is a native of Holt, Wiltshire, England.

He was born 2nd of June, 1829. He married Erurua Durran, of Banbury, Oxfordshire, England. They came to Chicago, Illinois, in 1855. Their children are: Marian, Alrue, Alice, May.

James Philip Wilcox, is a resident of Chicago, Illinois, to which city he came in August 1867. He is a native of Plymouth, England, where he was born 2nd. of October 1852. He married 1st. of April 1885, Alice Thomas, of Chicago. They have one child, Philip Allen.

In conclusion we may say, that in the hands of Ainsley Wilcox, Attorney, of Buffalo, N. Y., Judge Henry Beals Wilcox, of Madison, Conn., Mr. Wilbur, of Rochester, N. Y., Alney Stone of Westford, Vt., J. Freeland Wilcox, of Brooklyn, N. Y., William A. Wilcox, Attorney, of Scranton, Pa., The Rev. H. E. Hayden, of Wilkesbarre, Pa., there are more or less full records. It is hoped that this publication may lead to finding others who have preserved the facts regarding their ancestry.


The names of immigrants of the name of Wilcox show that representatives have come from various counties of England, as well as from Ireland and Scotland.

In fact the English County and Town histories -- and the early lists of births marriages and deaths -- and the visitations of the Seventeenth Century show that the name was a frequent one.

THE TORREY FAMILY.

By Nathan D. Bates, Norwich, Conn.

United States Marshal, District of Connecticut.

ILLIAM TORREY, Weymouth, Massachusetts, 1640, came there that year from Combe St. Nicholas, in the county of Somerset, England. His wife was Elizabeth Frye, daughter of Edward Frye. Brought with them their sons Samuel and Joseph. He was admitted freeman of Massachusetts 18, 1642, member of General Court 1642 and very often afterwards, was early Lieutenant and later Captain, was Clerk of the General Court of Massachusetts 1650, and often afterwards. His will of May 15, 1686, named his eldest son Samuel, Executor.

SAMUEL TORREY, eldest son of Captain William Torrey, of Weymouth Mass., came in early youth with his father 1640, and took his A. B. at Harvard College in 1660, was ordained 14th Feb'y, 1665, to succeed the Rev. Thomas Thacher at the town of Hull, Mass., was chosen President of Harvard College, 1681, after the death of President Oakes and again after the death of President Rogers. He married May 15, 1657, Mary, daughter of Edward Rawson, Secretary of the Colony of Massachusetts. Having preached about fifty years, died April 21, 1709.

JOSEPH TORREY, son of Capt. William Torrey, of Weymouth, Mass., removed from Weymouth to Rehoboth, Mass., in 1653 or earlier. from Rehoboth removed to Newport, Rhode Island, was General Recorder of the Colony of Rhode Island 1654 and often afterwards. With others met Denison of Connecticut and Davenport of Massachusetts, Commissioners, in 1664, at Rehoboth, Mass., about question of jurisdiction of Mass., Conn. and Rhode Island. was Lieutenant 1670, sent with John Greene and others Commissioners to adjust bounds with Connecticut, was Ruling Elder at the time of his death 1676, of the church of Rev. John Clark, Newport, R. I. He married the eldest daughter of John Greene, of Newport, R. I.

REV. JOSEPH TORREY, son of Rev. Samuel Torrey, and his wife Mary Rawson, was born at Hull, Mass., 1706, graduated at Harvard College, died at Tower Hill, South Kingstown, R. I., November 25, 1791, aged 85 years and the 61 year of his ministry, and is buried at Tower Hill. He married May 30, 1730, Elizabeth Willson, daughter of Jeremiah Willson, of Tower Hill, South Kingstown, R. I., The officiating clergyman was the Rev. Dr. McSparran of the Episcopal Church (known as Saint Paul's Church Narragansett.) By this marriage he was connected to the large families of Willson, Robinson, Mumford, Potter, and Fanning of Kings Towne, R. I.

The church where he officiated, stood on Tower Hill, and was formed 17, May 1732, Mr. Torrey, was ordained the same day by Rev. Samuel Niles, of Braintree, Rev. Thomas Prince, of Boston, Mass. and Rev. James Searing, of Newport, R. I. He practiced medicine at the same time and was usually called " Dr. Torrey." His residence was about one

mile west of Tower Hill, on the road leading to Kingston Hill.

By his wife Elizabeth Willson he had seven children, Joseph, Samuel Holden, Oliver, (died young), Elizabeth, Ann, Mary, and Lucy. He afterwards married for his second wife, Elizabeth Fisk, daughter of the Rev. John Fisk, of Killingly, Connecticut. By this last marriage the Rev. Joseph Torrey had eight children; John Fisk, Oliver, William, Abigail, Sarah and Elizabeth. Two died young.

It will be noticed that the Rev. Joseph Torrey had two wives Elizabeth, two daughters Elizabeth and two sons Oliver. All of the Rev. Joseph Torrey's sons removed to Killingly, Conn. His son Joseph Torrey, married, a daughter of the Rev. John Fisk, of Killingly, Conn., a sister of his father's second wife. His Second son, Dr. Samuel Holden Torrey, married Anne Gould, of Branford, Conn., His Third son, Oliver Torrey, married Tamer Davis, of Thompson, Conn., His Fourth son, Capt. William Torrey, married Hannah Plank, of Killingly, Conn. His daughters: Elizabeth married Edward Adams of Killingly, Conn.; Ann married Thomas Hawkins, of South Kingstown, R. I. Mary married Captain William W. Pollock, of South Kingstown, R. I. Lucy married the Rev. Mr. Osgood, of Boston, Mass., Abigail and Sarah, married brothers named Willson, settled in Ohio and died soon after. Elizabeth lived single and died November 30, 1808.

Note. Major Joseph W. Torrey, grandson of the Rev. Joseph Torrey, married Caroline Collins, daughter of Gov. Charles Collins, of Newport R. I.

Extracts from Rev. Joseph Torrey's Will.

The will of Rev. Dr. Torrey was dated July 18, 1788, and directs his executor to sell his Mansion House at Tower Hill,

as soon as possible, gives one half of his estate to son Joseph, of Killingly, Conn. To his son John Fisk Torrey, his house, and fifty acres of land in Killingly, Conn., also his horse and saddle. To his grand-daughter Ann Hawkins, twenty Spanish milled dollars. To each of his daughters Mary Pollock, Abigail Willson, Sarah Willson, Elizabeth Torrey, and to his grand-daughter Sarah Osgood, only child of daughter Lucy Osgood, fifty Spanish dollars. To his daughter Elizabeth Torrey, all his household furniture. By Codical, gives twenty Spanish milled dollars to his grand-daughter Ann Hawkins and unto the rest of the children of my daughter Ann Hawkins, one twelfth part of my books. A few other articles inventored, was two gold rings, gold sleeve buttons, gold shoe buckles, gold knee buckles, spinning wheel, loom and warping bars. Makes h's son Joseph, of Killingly, Connecticut, Executor.


(*From Probate Records South Kingstown, R. I.*)

A Genealogy of the Farnham Family.

The Rev. J. M. W. Farnham, D. D., of Shanghai, China, has compiled a small work relating to the Farnham Family. It makes a very good beginning and we trust that the work may grow larger and a future edition contain the name of every member. That such works are more and more in demand is apparent, and no one can do his family more lasting honor than by doing work of this character. However small the work may be at first, it will often prove an incentive in after years of producing a larger and more elaborate edition. We feel that this little book will lead to just such a desirable result.

ONE
LINE OF THE WEEDEN FAMILY.

By John O. Austin.

 HE writer has already published an account of this family to the fourth generation. One of the branches will now be followed to more recent times. It will be remembered that the emigrant ancestor James Weeden,¹ was in Newport as early as 1648, where his son William,² died in 1676, leaving among other children, a son Thomas,³ who died Dec. 28, 1714. The line that it is proposed to follow commences with Samuel,⁴ son of Thomas,³ last mentioned.

1. SAMUEL WEEDEN,⁴ [Thomas,³ William,² James,¹] of Newport, R. I., was born in 1700 and married at Trinity Church June 5, 1729, Ruth Everson. He died July 17, 1774. He was Town Crier for forty-five years. Samuel Weeden and wife Ruth had :

I THOMAS,⁵ b. Nov. 15, 1729, m. Mary ———
Children.

i Samuel,⁶ b. May 19, 1759.

ii Ruth,⁶ b.

His wife "Molly," was baptized at Second Baptist Church, Newport, Dec. 3. 1769, and seven days later children Samuel and Ruth.

- II MARY,⁵ b. Nov. 13, —
- 2. III GEORGE,⁵ b. Apr. 3, 1737.
- 3. IV SAMUEL,⁵ b. Oct. 11, 1738; m. (1) Abigail Langworthy, July 3, 1760; (2) Abigail Price, Nov. 1, 1792.

2. GEORGE WEEDEN,⁵ [Samuel,⁴ Thomas,³ William,² James,¹] of Newport, R. I., was born April 3, 1737. He had the following children baptized at Trinity Church. George, Sept. 29, 1763, Isaac and Sarah, Nov. 5, 1766, James and Ruth, Mar. 5, 1773, and William Broad Weeden, Sept. 29, 1782. The parents names are not given except in the case of the last child baptized. He was called " son of George Weeden." The census of 1774, gives George Weeden's family as nine in all, viz: one male above sixteen years, four males under sixteen, one female above sixteen, two females under sixteen, one Indian.

George Weeden and wife ——— had :

- 4. I GEORGE,⁶ b. 1763, m. Esther Dunham, Mar. 26, 1786; (2) Celinda Farnum, Dec. 31, 1809.
- II ISAAC,⁶ b. 1764, (about) m. — — —
His daughter Lydia,⁷ married Mr. Walcott, and Ann,⁷ married Jesse Comstock. He removed to New York.
- III SARAH,⁶ b. 1766, (about) m. William Babcock, of Newport, R. I.
- 5. IV JAMES,⁶ b. Apr. 11, 1770, m. (1) Elizabeth Smith, Apr. 25, 1792; (2) Lydia — —
- V RUTH,⁶ b. 1772, (about)
- VI WILLIAM BROAD,⁶
- VII PELEG,⁶

3. SAMUEL WEEDEN,⁵ [Samuel,⁴ Thomas,³ William,² James,¹] was born Oct. 11, 1738, at Newport, R. I., where he married (1) July 3, 1760, Abigail Langworthy; (2) Nov. 1, 1792, Abigail Price. He died at Providence Nov. 15, 1813. He was a cooper and gauger. He had his son Thomas baptized at Second Baptist Church Newport, July 21, 1772, and his wife and the following children Aug. 1, 1774; James, fourteen years; Abigail, twelve years; Mary, nine years; and Hannah six years.

Aug. 25, 1785, he of Providence, and Mary Davis, widow, sold to Daniel Lyman, for five shillings, a lot of land in Newport, bounded westerly on Broad street, easterly on Spring street, northerly on land of John G. Wanton, and southerly on land of Isaac Lawton.

The Providence Gazette, in noticing his death, states that he was a gauger at the Custom House from the time that Rhode Island came into the Union until his death. Administration on his estate was taken by his widow Abigail and grandson Samuel Weeden Coates. The account showed a house on Planet street renting for forty dollars a year. Receipts were given by heirs.

Samuel Weeden and wife Abigail had :

I JAMES,⁶ b. Oct. 30, 1760, m. Margaret Dawley, July 1794, at Exeter. R. I., daughter of James Dawley, late of Newport. He died at Providence, in March 1810. Administration on his estate was taken by his father at request of the widow. A son, George Washington Weeden,⁷ left descendants now living.

II ABIGAIL,⁶ b. 1762, m. Nathaniel Bailey, May 8, 1785.

III MARY,⁶ b. 1765.

IV HANNAH,⁶ b. 1768, m. Captain Daniel Coates,
Oct. 12, 1790.

V THOMAS,⁶ d. young.

VI WILLIAM,⁶ m. ——— He died in 1829 at Providence, R. I., leaving a son William,⁷ for whom James O. Barney was guardian,

4. GEORGE WEEDEN,⁶ [George,⁵ Samuel,⁴ Thomas,³ William,² James,¹] of Providence, R. I., was born at Newport, R. I., in 1763; m. (1) Esther Dunham, March 26, 1786, at Newport, daughter of Benjamin Dunham. (2) Celinda Farnum, Dec. 31, 1809, at Providence. He died at Providence, June 18, 1824. His first wife was born 1763, and died Aug. 26, 1808. His second wife died in 1855. He was a baker. In 1794, he bought land in Providence, north side of Olney's Lane. The Obituary notice in Providence paper states that the burial would take place from Market St., on Sunday the 26th. instant, after Divine service.

George Weeden and wife Esther had:

I. GEORGE EVERSON,⁷ b. Feb. 12, 1787, m. Ann Frances Randall, Oct. 16, 1808, daughter of Stephen and Lucina (Winsor) Randall. He died Sept. 13, 1825. His wife was born June 4, 1789, died April 16, 1807.

II MARY,⁷ b. Jan. 18, 1789, m. Joseph Cowing, June 24, 1811.

III BENJAMIN DUNHAM,⁷ b. Dec. 15, 1792, m. Cornelia Sowle, Nov. 13, 1816.

IV HENRY DAVIS,⁷ b. Jan. 27, 1793, m. Joanna Alger, Dec. 4, 1817.

V ENOS HITCHCOCK,⁷ b. Feb. 13, 1803.

George Weeden and wife Celinda had:

VI SARAH,⁷ b. July 26, 1812, m. Philip Case, Nov. 24, 1829.

5, JAMES WEEDEN,⁶ [George,⁵ Samuel,⁴ Thomas,³ William,² James,¹] of North Providence, R. I., (village of Pawtucket), was born April 11, 1770, at Newport, R. I., He married (1) April 25, 1792, Elizabeth Smith, daughter of David Smith. (2) Lydia — He died Dec. 9, 1819. He was a baker, and the establishment founded by him has been deservedly famous for its gingerbread, &c., to the present time. In 1794, he bought land in North Providence, and in 1805, 1810 and 1811, he and wife Elizabeth sold land. In 1819, his widow, Lydia, desired that administration on the estate might be given to his son, James Weeden, Jr. This family of Pawtucket Weedens should not be confounded with that of the late John Hull Weeden. The latter was from another branch, his descent being thus; John Hull Weeden,⁷ [John,⁶ Daniel,⁵ Daniel,⁴ John,³ William,² James.¹]

James Weeden and wife Elizabeth had :

I RUTH, ⁷	II JAMES, ⁷
III JOHN SMITH, ⁷	IV ELIZA, ⁷
V MARY ANN ,b. 1799.	VI HORACE, ⁷
VII ESTHER, ⁷	VIII CORNELIA, ⁷
IX AMELIA, ⁷	X SARAH, ⁷

A FEW WILLS OF NEWPORT WOMEN.

By John O. Austin.

Much light upon family relationships is often given by the wills of widows and spinsters, and notably so by the four instruments here submitted to the readers of this magazine.

Will of Hannah Carr, [Widow of Edward,² Gov. Caleb.¹]

Dated 1748, proved 1752. She mentions sons, Edward and James; daughters, Hannah Watson, wife of Samuel Watson, of South Kingstown; Mary Chapman, wife of Isaac Chapman, of Newport; Mercy Brown, wife of Samuel Brown, of South Kingstown; Patience Westgate, wife of Robert Westgate, of Warwick; and Sarah Waterman, wife of Resolved Waterman, of Warwick.

Will of Mary Coggeshall, [Widow of John,³ Joshua,² John.¹]

Dated 1740, Mar. 4, proved 1747, June 1. Exs., brother Benjamin Stanton, and Edward Thurston. She mentions sons, John, Joshua and Joseph, (of Jamestown,) daughter Mary Weaver, wife of Thomas Weaver, of Newport; Hannah Weaver, wife of Benjamin Weaver, of Newport; Mercy Fish, wife of Thomas Fish, of Dartmouth; son-in-law Peleg Wood, of Newport; daughters, Avis and Humility Coggeshall.

Will of Mary Cole, Spinster, [Daughter of John and Ann (Hutchinson) Cole.]

Dated about 1720. She mentions sister Eldred's daughters, Elizabeth, Grace and Bridget; sister Potter's daughter Susanna; sister Place's daughters Marbury and Ann; brother William's daughters Ann and Hannah; and gives a legacy also to Lydia, daughter of Henry Bull.

Will of Sarah Mosher, [Widow of Hugh,² Hugh, also Widow of John Harding², Stephen,¹ who was the father of her children.]

Dated 1716, May 1, proved 1716, June 4. Ex., friend John Odlin. She mentions son Israel Harding, daughters Elizabeth Williams, Mary Hookey, Amey Clarke, and Hannah Medbury, and son-in-law Stephen Hookey.

QUERIES.

Editor of the Register. Can you or any of your readers give me any information concerning Mr. John Spencer,¹ who came from London to New England in the ship Mary and John, about the year 1633. Who were his parents or the date of his birth.

2. Whose son was John Spencer,² that John,¹ in his will, (at Salem, Mass.) mentions as his nephew and heir. Who were his, John,² parents, or date of his birth. What was the maiden name of his wife, Susannah, and whose daughter was she. At what time did John,² leave Massachusetts for Newport, R. I., where he was made freeman 1668, and settled in East Greenwich, R. I., 1677.

3. What was the maiden name of Martha, the wife of Benjamin,³ third son of John.² What was the date of their marriage. Their first child, Peleg,⁴ was born 1696.

4. Who was Lydia, wife of Wilson,⁵ Walter,⁴ Benjamin,³ and what the date of their marriage. Their first child, Henry,⁶ was born Aug 15, 1750. B. B. Spencer.

East Greenwich, R. I.

The Rhode Island Historical Tracts, Second Series.

We are please to observe that Mr. Rider has commenced the publication of the Second Series of the above interesting work. His first number is a grand one and firmly nails one well known misrepresentation of our early settlers. We wish there were more men like Mr. Rider in our State. He is one who writes on Rhode Island subjects and has long been interested in the publication of Rhode Island works. In the successful publication of the Historical Tracts alone, he has done our State History an invaluable service. Numerous other historical works bear witness to his energy, industry and business management. May he meet with success in this new venture.

THE TWO GOVERNORS, CRANSTON.

By Henry E. Turner, M. D., Newport, R. I.

I.

GOVERNOR JOHN CRANSTON.

AMONG those of the early settlers of Aquidneck, no name has been handed down, more closely identified with Rhode Island History or entitled to more honorable notice, by her citizens, than that of CRANSTON, inasmuch as it not only represents an ancient and distinguished family for many generations and in many lines prominent in Scottish affairs, but also is a worthy branch of the stock planted on the soil of Rhode Island by Governor Jeremiah Clarke, various others of whose descendants have been, and still continue to be, important elements in our social and political fabric.

According to the traditions of the family, verified by the researches of the late Hon. Theodore Foster, formerly a distinguished citizen of Providence and for many years a Senator in the United States Congress, John Cranston, the settler, was a lineal descendant, in the fifth generation, from Sir William Cranston, Captain in the Kings Guard, created Baron Cranstown of Creling, by King James VI, of Scotland. James, a younger son of First Lord, William Cranstown, mar-

ried Elizabeth Stuart, daughter of Francis, Earl of Bothwell, who was grandson of James V., with the bar sinister and nephew of Mary, Queen of Scots. His son John Cranston, married with Christian, daughter of Sir Robert Stuart, predecessor of the Earl of Traquair, also of the Royal Stuarts. His son James, father of Governor John Cranston, was Chaplain to King Charles I., of England and Scotland. The wife of First Lord, William Cranston, was Helen, a daughter of James Lindsey predecessor of the Earls of Crawford.

This pedigree being correct, which, as it seems to me, there is very little reason to doubt, the blood of the Cranstons may be traced back through the Royal Lines of both England and Scotland, to a period as far back as history reaches, with many ramifications through the historic families of Scotland.

To us Republicans these are matters of apparently little moment, but I have referred to them chiefly from deference to Mr. Foster's laborious and exhaustive examination of the subject, which is intended to be given to the public, without alteration, but with such notes as may seem to be required.

Governor Cranston was born in 1625 and died Mar. 12, 1680, aged 54 years. His wife, Mary Clarke, was daughter of Jeremiah and Francis, and was born 1641 and was therefore sixteen years his junior. She died April 7, 1711, aged 69 years. She married after his death John Stanton, being his second wife. John Cranston's name first appears on the Colonial Record, as elected drummer, Mar. 13, 1644, at that time his age was about nineteen years. This does not strike us as a very dignified position for a youth claiming so much royal and aristocratic blood, but bear in mind that his father is reputed to have been Chaplain to Charles I., a position which would not be likely to recommend him to much favor either in England or Scotland, both which, at this time, were

under the domination of the most furious disciples of puritanism and democracy. The collateral branches of a noble house, therefore, under such a condition of affairs, may well be supposed to have been in not very flourishing circumstances.

The next promotion of Cranston was ten years later, when he was elected Attorney General, May 16, 1654. He was reelected to this office in 1655.

He was Commissioner from Newport, in 1655, 56, 57, 60, 61, 63, 64, 65, 66, and Assistant in 1669, 70, 71, and was elected an Assistant May 7, 1674, but declined to serve.

May 1, 1672, he was elected Duputy Governor and also May 6, 1673, and again 1676, 77, and 78. In November of the latter year, he was elected Gorernor and filled that office until the March following, when he died.

At the election, May 7, 1673, Dr. Cranston, (as we may properly style him), being elected as Moderator of the Assembly, refused to serve, and John Easton was elected Moderator, and being reelected as Duputy Governor, he declined this also, and William Coddington was elected. In the meantime, Messrs, John Coggeshall and John Clarke had declined the position of Duputy Governor, and Messrs, Richard Smith and Francis Brinley had both declined to serve as Assistants, whence we infer that some unpleasant feeling existed, of which in the paucity of detail, we can offer no elucidation.

It has been often stated that John Cranston, was the first man who ever had conferred on him, the degree of Doctor of Medicine, by authority of the Government of Rhode Island, although Robert Jeffreys had received a license to practice Chirurgerie, Sept. 17, 1641, as appears by the following record. (*Col. Rec. Volume I.*) viz :

" It is ordered that Mr. Robert Jeffreys shall be authorized to exercise the function of Chirurgerie."

The act conferring the degree on John Cranston, is as follows. (*Col. Rec. Vol, II, page 33, Mar. 1, 1663-4.*)

viz :

“ WHEREAS, the Court have taken notice of the great blessing of God on the good endeavors of Captayne John Cranston of Newport, both in Phissicke and Chirurgery, to the great comfort of such as have had occasion to improve his skill and practice &co., We doe therfore unanimously enacte and declare that the said Captayne John Cranston is lycenced and commissioned to adminester Phissicke and practice chirurgery throughout this whole Colony, and is, by this Court styled and recorded Doctor of Phissicke and Chirurgery, by the authority of this the General Assembly of this Colony.”

As this was the Session at which the Charter of King Charles II, was accepted and recorded, this act may have expressed a feeling of a new accession of dignity and importance, or it may have been supposed to be agreeable to His Majesty, that his not distant relative should receive this mark of honor from his favored subjects.

John Cranston, when appointed Drummer in 1644, was of Portsmouth, John Hardy being appointed Drummer for Newport, at the same time, and in the complete roll of Freemen in 1655, John Cranston's name appears on the lists of Portsmouth and Newport, whence we conclude that he had then recently changed his residence from Portsmouth to Newport. This Roll was undoubtedly the necessary consequence of the reorganization of the four towns into one government, under the Charter of 1643, on the 12th. of September, 1654, under the Presidency of Roger Williams, upon the vacation of Coddington's surreptitiously obtained perpetual Commission.

Cranston's first election as Commissioner, is also in the same year, from Newport.

His name frequently appears, during his public service, in connection with important Legislative business showing him to have been a leading factor in the affairs of the Colony.

He was President of the Court Martial for the trial of the Indians charged with being engaged in the war against the Colonies in 1675-6, called King Philip's War, and May 1, 1678, the Assembly voted:

"That copies of all the proceedings of the Court Martial for trial of Indians, of which he was President, be presented to Major John Cranston, at the Colony's expense."

The Military Spirit, which harmonized so thoroughly with his Scottish blood and his feudal antecedents, and which induced him, in his nineteenth year to act as drummer, for the town of Portsmouth, seems to have been a leading feature in his character, and he is styled Captayne from a very early period in his career. At a Meeting of the Assembly, Oct. 27, 1675, it was voted as follows, viz: (*At Newport; Col. Rec. Vol. II. page 531.*)

"Whereas, a petition was presented to this Assembly, by Capt'n John Cranston &c., concerning several particulars, for the settling of the Militia, in these daingerous hurries with the Indians, and putting the Colony in a suitable posture of defence, soe near as may be, to the Safety and Satisfaction of all, this Assembly doe referr the consideration and conclusion of the matter, unto the Councill of Warr, in each towne, to order, and what each Councill shall soe order shall stand & be authentic, And the Councills on this Island, in each towne shall meet on Wednesday next, which will be on the third day of November next, and the other townes, in this

Colony, may take their most convenient time to effect the premises."

At a meeting of the Assembly, at Newport, it was voted, Mar. 13, 1675-6, that: (*Col. Rec. Vol. II, page 532.*)

"Mr. Walter Clarke, Capt. John Cranston, Mr. Joshua Coggeshall, Mr. Caleb Carr, and John Sanford, are chosen a Committee to draw up and prepare matters for this Assembly, and make their speedy return of what they agree thereon, for the Court's confirmation, relating to the matters of Providence and Warwick; and also to draw up a letter to the Plymouth government."

Letters to Providence and Warwick.

"To the free inhabitants of Providence and Warwick, there remaining, greeting:

WHEREAS, the present troubles with the natives is and hath been great, very hazardous and prejudicial to the inhabitants of this Collony, the sense of which upon the hearts of the Governor & Councill hath occasioned the calling of this present Assembly, whoe hath a true commiseration of your calamities, and really sympathize in your exercizes, and owne ourselves soe nearly related to you, and in duty bound, for the good of his Majesty's interest, that it is our study how to doe or act for your safety, in all respects; wee received a paper from you of Warwick, as wee suppose, but noe hand subscribed, the contents of which, wee take to be the substance of your minds, and favorably construct the omission, by reason of your hnrries and exercizes as aforesaid; and since this meetinge convened, the 13th. ins't, was and is on purpose to advise for the good and weale of this Colony, as is abovesaid, after our searious debate and well weighing your hazardous and present condition, wee declare that wee

find this Collony is not of ability to maintaine sufficient gar-risons for the security of our out Plantations. Therefore, wee thinke and judge it most safe for the inhabitants to re-paire to this Island, which is the most secureist. Newport and Portsmouth inhabitants have taken such care, that those of the Collony who come, and cannot procure land to plant for themselves and families reliefe, may be supplied with land, by the townes; and each familye soe wantinge a libertye, shall have a cow kept upon the commons; butt if any of you think yourselves of ability to keepe your interest of house and cattell, and will adventure your lives, wee shall not positively oppose you therein; but this the Assembly declares as their sense and reall believe, concerninge the premises, that those that so doth make themselves a prey, and what they have, as goods, provisions, ammunition, cattell, &c. will be a reliefe to the enemy, at their pleasure, except more than ordinary providence prevent, therefore cannot but judge them wisest, that take the safest course to secure themselves, and take the occasion from the enemy."

"Ordered to be signed by the Clerke of this Assembly."

A lengthy act was passed, at this Session, enjoining on individuals having Indians in their custody or care, to take extraordinary care against their escape &c. and another vote was passed to the effect —

"That any that hath a man Indian or Indians, capable, shall pay for a watcher and warder, as much as if the Indian were an Englishman; and that noe Indian, in this Collony, be a slave, but only to pay their debts, or for their bringinge up, or custody they have received, or to performe covenant, as if they had been countrymen not in warr."

At the next session, April 4, 1676, (page 535) provision was made for four boats, manned by five or six men each, to

aid in the defense of the bay, to be increased if necessary, by a Commission, consisting of the Duputy Governor, John Easton, Mr. Walter Clarke, Capt. John Cranston, Mr. John Coggeshall, Mr. Caleb Carr, for Newport, and Capt. John Albro, Mr. Robert Hodgson, and Mr. Robert Hazard for Portsmouth.

It was voted also, that negros capable should be required to watch as Englishmen.

It was voted to make an enumeration of inhabitants of Newport and Portsmouth, English, Negros and Indians in separate lists, "and also to take an account of how all persons are provided with corne, guns, powder, shot and lead."

A barrel of powder was ordered for the supply of Portsmouth, and two great guns, now in the yard of the late deceased Mr. William Brenton, to be pressed for the country's service, and carred to Portsmouth. and placed, the one in the ferry neck, the other at or near the house of John Borden, to be properly mounted and placed in charge of suitable persons.

They then invite a large number of "the most judicious inhabitants to meet the Assembly on the instant, for advice and concurrence."

At the next meeting, April 11, 1676, (page 537) the record is as follows, viz:

"VOTED, that whereas, there hath been and is great occasion, by these late wars with the Indians, whereby appeares absolute necessity for the defence and safety of this Collony, and the Kings interest herein, that suitable care be taken for the management of the Millitia and Military forces of the Collony."

"THEREFORE, for the orderly maintaininge of the Millitia this Assembly doe agree to choose a Major, to be chief Capitaine of all the Collony forces, Captaines, inferior officers and

Company's of any pertickular place or places, in this Collony, soe to be commanded, in what there is cause of general Command, and to have his Commission from the General Assembly."

And voted, that a Major, by this Assembly, be "forthwith chosen and empowered."

"Capt. John Cranston is chosen Major."

The Major's Commission.

"To John Cranston, by this present Assembly appointed and chosen Major of this, his Majesty's Collony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, for the well ordering and maintaineing the Millitary Officers in this Collony, and for the defence of the King's subjects herein.

"You are therefore, in his Majesty's name, hereby fully and absolutely empowered and required, as Major of all and singular the land forces to this Collony belonginge, to undertake the conduct, leadinge and traininge up of the said forces and for the preservation of the King's subjects in this Collony, to take care that the said Millitary be put in a suitable and absolute way of defence. You are alsoe, by virtue hereof, to have the absolute command of all the Captaines and inferior officers, with their respective Companys, within this Collony, to martial array, at your command, and to repair to such place or places, as may be most for the King's interest, and the safety of the inhabitants here; and alsoe, by your warrantts to to the several townes, to require, if you see cause, more Captains to be chosen, on this Island, and order their severall numbers, in each town, and to take care that watchmen and warders be continued, and in all cases, necessary for the defence of this Collony, and his Majesty's subjects herein, to command the inferior officers, with their companys; and upon

assault of an enemy, with them, or either of them, to use your utmost endeavour to kill, expulse, expell, take and destroy, all and every the enemies of this, his Majesty's Collony, that shall, in hostile manner, be found actinge against the publick peace of this Collony, and the inhabitants herein. And, in all things necessary for the peace and safety of the Collony, to doe and act with power and authority, in the place and office of a Major, according to the Law Martial, for the execution whereof, this Commission or the duplicate of it, shall be your sufficient warrant and discharge, soe that your actings herein, be not repugnant to the Assembly as Governor and Councill orders, and the advice of the respective Councils, in each towne, to be taken as to watchinge and wardinge, and the election of Military officers.

In witness whereof, wee, the said Assembly, have authorized the Governor to signe hereunto, with the seale of the Collony affixed by the Recorder.

WILLIAM CODDINGTON, Gov."

" By order of the General Assembly, aforesaid, sittinge at Newport, the 13th. of march, 1675-6, and by adjournment, sittinge the 11th. of April 1676. The seale of the Collony affixed. as attests;

JOHN SANFORD, RECORDER "

We give these copious extracts from the record, because they show, First, that John Cranston made, primarily, the movement upon which the action of the Assembly was based, Second, that he was selected as the instrument for their execution, and that, considering the extreme jealousy which they invariably manifested in regard to their democratic ideas, they showed a wonderful degree of confidence in the character of the man, and in the capacity of the soldier.

We cannot determine whether the general plan expressed in the letter to the mainland towns was adopted wholly or mainly through his influence, as he was of the Committee which reported the letter to Providence and Warwick, and as he was selected to prosecute the plans agreed on, we have good reasons to suppose that in a very great degree, they were governed by his opinions, in the adoption of their plan of operations, he being, as they believed, the man among them, in whose military genius they had most reasons for confidence.

There is no evidence afforded by the record, that any significant resistance was made to the plan set forth in the letter to Providence and Warwick, and many of their inhabitants availed themselves of the hospitable proposition of the Island towns, and there is now very little room to doubt its consummate wisdom.

Very little aid could be expected from any of the United Colonies, except such as, incidentally, would contribute to their own safety, for this was in the "hey day" of that organization, always jealous of Rhode Island, and nourishing towards her, a quasi hostility, and little disposed to treat her otherwise than as an interloper, and a thorn in the flesh, but in no case, would Rhode Island have been recognized as an equal associate, or as having any claim to their protection.

The Colony however, at a session, held June 14, 1676, upon a representation from the inhabitants of Providence, established there a garrison of eight men, of which Arthur Fenner was constituted Captain, with a Commission essentially similar to that given to Cranston, except, that it only extends to his immediate command, but contains this notable provision, viz: (*R. I. Col. Rec. Vol. II, page 547.*)

“ And further you are to declare to any of the forces of the United Collonys, if occasion require, that you are there placed, to manifest to all, that your garrison is there settled to maintain the interest of all our out plantations, against their unlawful intrusions, and to forbid their settinge of garrison or garrisons, without our advice and knowledge in any part of our jurisdictions, though at present left voyd of inhabitants.”


This passage shows, in the clearest light, what kind of “ aid and comfort,” they expected from the United Colonies, whose imperious and exacting policy had forced upon the natives, a war, in which they would make no discrimination between those who had treated them with cruel harshness, and those who had acted with kindness and consideration.

The sufferings increased subsequently by those in Providence and Warwick who did not acquiesce in the proposition to remove, with their movables, to the Island, shows the inability of Rhode Island to protect these outlying settlements, and also the want of power or of inclination to afford them any adequate aid, on the part of the other Colonies.

There is no reason to suppose that Governor Cranston's religious views coincided with those of the original refugees from Massachusetts and there are no data from which they can be determined, but his father having been Chaplain to the King, was necessarily an adherent to the Church of England, and his son, Gov. Samuel, was one of the founders and principal supporters of Trinity Church, Newport, he was therefore, probably an Episcopalian, but notwithstanding their loyalty to the church, they actively promoted the views of the more liberal party in Colonial Politics, of which their relatives, the Clarke's were, for many years, vigilant and earnest advocates.

John Cranston, by his wife Mary, daughter of Jeremiah and Frances (Latham) Clarke, had :

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| i SAMUEL, | v WILLIAM, |
| ii CALEB, | vi JEREMIAH, |
| iii BENJAMIN, | vii PELEG, |
| iv JOHN, | viii ELIZABETH, |

 Note. There is much uncertainty in the number and order of the births of the children of Gov. John Cranston. The above list gives eight, according to Peleg Clarke's genealogy. Mr. George K. Cranston, in his list, gives ten in the following order:

i Samuel, ii Caleb, iii James, iv Mary, v Benjamin, vi John, vii William, viii Jeremiah, ix Peleg, x Elizabeth.

Austin's Genealogical Dictionary gives also ten, but in the following order:

i Samuel, ii Caleb, iii James, iv Jeremiah, v Mary, vi Benjamin, vii John, viii Elizabeth, ix Peleg, x William.

II.

GOVERNOR SAMUEL CRANSTON.

Samuel Cranston, eldest son of John and Mary, was born 1659, his mother being then about eighteen years old, and his father thirty-four. His First wife was Mary Hart, daughter of Thomas and Freeborn (Williams) Hart, which Freeborn was a daughter of Roger Williams, and as all the children of Samuel Cranston were by this wife Mary Hart, all the descendants of Governor Samuel Cranston, are necessarily

descendants also, of Roger Williams. Thomas and Freeborn Hart, besides this daughter Mary, had three sons, John Thomas and James. After the decease of Thomas Hart, his widow Freeborn, became the third wife of Gov. Walter Clarke, but had no further issue.

The Second wife of Samuel Cranston was Judith (Parrett,) widow of his brother, Caleb Cranston.

Mary, First wife of Samuel Cranston, died Sept. 17, 1710, aged 47 years.

Judith, Second wife of Samuel Cranston, died May 4, 1737, aged 67 years.

Samuel Cranston, died April 26, 1727, aged 68 years.

Samuel Cranston was admitted a Freeman of the Colony, May 6, 1684. In 1696, he was an Assistant, and perhaps had been Assistant or Deputy for several years previously, as no record exists from 1692 to 1696. In March 1698, he was elected Governor, and continued to be reelected to that office, until 1727, having died incumbent, in the April of that year, making his term of that office, thirty successive years.

July 1, 1695, he was appointed to receive and account for the impost on wines and strong waters, and was on a Committee to report an Act in relation thereto.

At no period in our Colonial history, was there more need of the sterling qualities that distinguished Samuel Cranston, than that in which was assigned him the onerous task of administering the Rhode Island government, and he proved himself the worthy successor of his venerable uncle, Governor Walter Clarke. The minions of the Court, represented by Lord Bellomont and Edward Randolph, were unyielding in their determination and unwearied in their efforts to introduce a system, into the administration of the Colonies, which should reduce the Colonists to a state of serfdom, and should divert

all the streams of traffic towards the coffers of the merchants of London, and all the public patronage to the support of the younger scions of the privileged classes of the fatherland, and should choke all the aspirations for civil and political liberty, which had induced their immigration, from under the shadow of the royal wing and the fostering influence of hereditary oligarchy.

The correspondence of Governor Cranston, limited as it was, simple and unsophisticated as it is, in its diction, devoid as it is, of indications of scholastic attainment, is admirable for its exhibition of the attributes most applicable to the emergency, earnestness, persistence, adroitness and patience, and yet not wanting that measure of pliability which yields when resistance is vain, or to quote a modern illustration, "adapts itself to the logic of events." In the more positive qualities first mentioned, Governor Cranston showed himself a creditable graduate of the school in which he was trained, and of which John Greene and Walter Clarke had been the prime leaders; in the latter, and not less useful features of his character, he may be allowed to have transcended them.

In order to estimate the difficulties of his position we must bear in mind, that in the lapse of two generations, the Colonies had become, comparatively, populous and productive, communication with Europe was vastly more facile and frequent, the Colonists had begun to indicate an ambition to develop commerce and manufactures, by which they hoped to diminish their expenses and, in some degree, their dependence on a people three thousand miles removed from them, for the absolute necessities of existence, and that the greed of the British public for the monopoly of their trade, and of the needy gentry for absorbing their positions of profit and honor, had "grown with their growth and strengthened with

their strength," and like the tiger, after a "taste of blood," the appetites of their commercial and feudal brethren at home, had been provoked, in a high degree, by the ephemeral success, which had crowned their desires, during the reign of James II., and the usurped administration of Sir Edmond Andros.

We must bear in mind too, that the autonomy enjoyed by Rhode Island, was participated in, at this period, only by Connecticut, of all the sister Colonies. Plymouth had been merged in Massachusetts, and a Governor of Royal appointment, lorded it over both those Communities, and a vice-regal establishment, with all its accessories, guided the destinies of the Province of New York, and the position of Rhode Island was, therefore, exceptional and precarious.

Besides these discouraging circumstances, there existed, in their midst, a large party, of whom were many of the most wealthy and prominent of their associates "who knew not Joseph, but lusted after the flesh pots of Egypt," whose sympathies were with the powers at home, and whose machinations were always a factor, to the disadvantage of those we must consider the orthodox party, I. E. those who regarded the interests of the Colony, and the cause of truth and liberty as paramount, rather than those of the King, the Church, the Privileged Orders and the Mother Country.

The prominent leaders of this adverse party were, Peleg Sanford, Francis Brinley, Nathaniel Coddington, and less openly, Jahleel Brenton, who was in England during part of the time, acting as Agent for the Colony, and who, having been appointed by the General Assembly, May 3, 1699, as their Agent, is referred to, as such, in Gov. Cranston's letter to the King, dated May 13, 1700. At a Session, held Feb'y 1699 - 1700, it is evident, that some parties entertained mis-

givings as to Brenton's being the most suitable representative of their interests and wishes, for they voted, that

"Capt'n Joseph Sheffield, Esq., is appointed Sole Agent for this, his Majesty's Collony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations &c., always provided, if it doth appear to the aforesaid Captain Joseph Sheffield, that Mr. Jahleel Brenton, Esq., hath not acted, by virtue of the power, to him committed, as well as for the maintenance, upholding and continuing his Majesty's Letters Patent, to us granted, as well as, any other difference or differences, case or cases, in the behalf of the aforesaid Colony, either before his Majesty's Council, or any other Ministers of Justice, within the realm of England."

The vote then recites, that if the conduct of Mr. Brenton is such as Capt. Sheffield approves, then they are to be jointly associated in the Agency, if otherwise, then Capt. Sheffield is to be Sole Agent.

The Committee appointed to carry out this vote, and to forward Capt. Sheffield's preparations for his departure, and prepare instructions for his conduct, were, Gov. S. Cranston, R. Carr, Jas Barker. Giles Slocum, J. Borden, Eb'r Slocum, N. Waterman, and Richard Greene, all of the liberal party. At the Session, May 4, following, either the Assembly had become reassured in relation to Mr. Brenton, or the opposite party had become relatively stronger, probably the latter, or they withdrew from the arrangement with Capt. Sheffield, agreed to pay him £40 for the expense and trouble he had been at, and reaffirmed Mr. Brenton's appointment, on the ground of "their special confidence in said Brenton, Esq., and considering the great charge that would arise on said Collony, by continuing the aforesaid Sheffield in the aforesaid trust, &c."

By reference to a letter of Jahleel Brenton to the "Board of Trade," of date, Boston, Mar. 8, 1697-8, (*R. I. Col. Rec. Vol. III. page 331.*) we shall be convinced that a less suitable man could not have been found, to represent the more liberal element in the Colony, and, at various other times, the same spirit exhibits itself in his correspondence. Each of the four names I have mentioned except Coddington, are again signalized, seventy-five years later, by active and potent resistance to the organized efforts of the thirteen combined Colonies, to assert the principles of freedom and to repudiate the slavery proposed to be fastened on them. Brinley and Brenton in the persons of direct descendants, Sanford preeminently by a collateral, Thomas Hutchinson Royal Governor of Massachusetts.

In the selection of most Committees on important subjects, during his incumbency, Gov. Cranston's name appears, as first named, and we are bound to regard him as the representative man of the period, in Rhode Island, a period, as we expect to show infinitely critical, in the irrepressible conflict between the antagonistic forces of freedom and proscription.

The grand principle of the right of self government, as well as of freedom in religious concerns, seems to have animated the Rhode Island Colonists, without any period of abeyance, in spite of all assaults from without, and all discouragement within their organization.

The accession of William and Mary had seemed like a burst of sunlight, after the rigorous rule of King James and Gov. Andros, but they found that the more liberal government which Englishmen had established for themselves, had not been intended to extend all its benefits to the Colonies. No Burke or Fox or Chatham had yet arisen to dispense the effulgence of their genius upon the political firmament, and many

years were to elapse before the fulness of time was to fulfil the aspirations of the lovers of freedom, and much Royal and Parliamentary usurpation had yet to be encountered.

In the struggles incident to these unwarrantable pretensions of the Crown and Parliament, Gov. Cranston never swerved from a firm and persistent advocacy of the rights of the Colonists, and he went to his grave after nearly thirty years of militant service, without once laying aside the panoply of the faithful soldier.

In the R. I. Col. Records, Vol. III, pages 326 to 331, may be found copies of correspondence between the Board of Trade and the Colony, and also between the Board and certain individuals, which show most distinctly the position occupied by Sanford, Brinley and Brenton toward the Colony, and what sort of judicial fairness, was intended towards the Colony, may be judged by the nomination of these very names in Lord Bellomonts instructions, dated Mar. 9, 1698-9, (*R. I. Col. Records, Vol. III, pages 363 to 367.*) in the following terms, after directing him to go to Rhode Island, or if not, to appoint suitable persons, to go there and inquire into "the disorders and irregularities countenanced and practiced, by the Governor and Company of our Colony of R. Island &c. viz:

"And for the more effectual execution of our will and pleasure, in this matter, you shall call to your assistance, or direct those that may be appointed by you for this service, to call to their assistance, Francis Brinley, Peleg Sanford, Nathaniel Coddington, Caleb Arnold, Josias Arnold, or any of them, or any such other persons &c."

The instructions then proceed to dictate questions to be put to the following officials, under oath, viz:

"Walter Clarke, late Governor;

“ John Greene, Duputy Governor;

“ John Easton, late Governor;

“ Samuel Cranston, Governor;

“ Peleg Sanford, Esq.”

The result of this enquiry, is required to be reported to the King, and the animus of the Home Government is exhibited, in placing the evident authors of the complaint, in a quasi judicial position, in its investigation.

These papers being from J. Carter Brown's MSS. collections, were only brought to light at a recent period, and, of course were totally unknown to all parties on this side of the water.

In a letter to the Board of Trade, of date, May 27, 1699, (*R. I. Col. Records, Vol. III, pages 373 to 375.*) Gov. Cranston, in the most respectful and punctilious manner, disclaims any intentional wrong doing, on the part of the Colony or any of its officers, apologises for errors of judgment or ignorance, and concludes as follows.

“ We shall always, for time to come, be very observant in following your Lordships' advice and instructions, in all cases relating to his Majesty's interest, and once more. humbly begging your Lordships' favorable constuctions, in what of weakness may appear in us. We being a plain and mean sort of people, yet true and loyal subjects to his most excellent Majesty, King William, and we hope time will make manifest the same to your Lordships, we being not insensible of the many enemies we have, who hath and do make it their business to render us, (to his Majesty and your Lordships,) as ridiculous as they can, and to present things to your Lordships, quite contrary to what they are or were. For instance, there is one Esquire Randolph, who was employed by the Commissioners of his Majesty's customs, who did publicly declare he would be the means to eclipse us of our privileges;

and we know he picked up several false reports against us. But we do not doubt your Lordships will, in time, have a further insight of such men's actions, and we humbly beg of your Lordships, that you will not entertain any reports against us, so as to give any determination on the same, to our ill conveniency, till we can have liberty to answer for ourselves, we having commissioned and appointed Jahleel Brenton, Esq., (his Majesty's late Collector of his customs, in these parts,) our Agent, to answer to what shall be objected against us, or in any other matter or thing, relating to this his Majesty's Colony, begging your Lordships favor toward him in what shall appear just and right."

With the light of Mr. Brenton's correspondence, only lately made public, we have reasons for grave doubts, whether Gov. Cranston's reliance on him was not misplaced, and whether, on the contrary, the affairs of the Colonists, at headquarters, were not in very bad hands.

Lord Bellomont's report of the result of the enquiry, which he was commissioned to make, is in the R. I. Col. Records Vol. III, pages 385 to 388, and is a hearty response to the untenable and improbable generalities, set forth by their accusers, consisting in fact of sweeping charges such as political parties generally affect, and, in their nature, not susceptible of proof, rather than formal charges, under which, legal investigation could be had, or was designed.

These charges were :

I. That they have neglected the propagation of the Gospel among the Indians, and have never erected nor encouraged any schools of learning, or had the means of instruction by a learned orthodox ministry.

II. That they have omitted " English and America," in the titles of their official acts. Their style being; " The

English Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in New England in America.

III. That they have sometimes failed to hold sessions of the General Assembly, on the last Wednesday of October, as required by the Charter, and have held sessions on Tuesday the day before the first Wednesday in May.

IV. Denounces the appointment of a Moderator by the Assembly, to preside instead of the Governor.

V. Denounces the practice of voting by proxy.

VI. Objects, that military officers are elected by their several companies.

VII. Asserts that some members in 1697, were admitted to the Assembly, elected by Town Councils, and that, in the same year, Walter Clarke, then Governor, directed the sheriffs to issue warrants of election "to the Assistants and Justices of the several towns."

VIII. That Walter Clarke, in the same year, resigned his office of Governor, in the morning, and resumed it, to make up a quorum of the house of Magistrates.

IX. "In May, Anno, 1699, a General Assembly was held and kept, no writ for calling and convening the same, ever coming to the hand of the Sheriff or his deputy."

X. In 1696, "An Act or order was published, under the public seal of the Colony, as an act of the General Assembly, which was not laid before nor put in the House of Deputies or Representatives."

XI. Objects to the Assembly's assuming judicial and appellate power, and the Deputies are not under any oath or engagement.

XII. That "they raise and levy taxes and assessments upon the people, there being no express authority, in the Charter, for so doing."

XIII. That they try and punish capital offenders.

XIV. That they usurp Admiralty power.

XV. Complains generally of their administration of justice.

XVI. Their Attorney General, illiterate.

XVII. Their Assistants, also Justices of the peace and Judges of the Courts, are Quakers, Sectaries, and the gentlemen most sufficient for estate are overlooked and John Greene, a british man of very corrupt or no principles in religion, from year to year, is elected Duputy Governor.

XVIII. That the said Dep. Gov., J. G., granted commissions to privateers &c. "and all the vessels, whereof the Captains were so commissioned, went to Madagascar, and the seas of India, and were employed to commit piracy."

XIX. That they countenanced and harbored pirates.

XX. Objects to affirmation instead of oath.

XXI. No journal of acts in Council.

XXII. Acts and Laws not digested.

XXIII. Complains of neglect in furnishing copies of the Laws &c.

XXIV. Many of his Majesty's good Subjects complain of maladministration of the laws.

XXV. They are complained of by Mr. Brinley and Nathaniel Waterman, for disregarding certain orders of the King, "relating to some trials."

"Governor Cranston's speech made unto the General Assembly, called upon the notice I gave him, of his Majesty's commands unto myself, relating to that government (which is approved and applauded among them,) gives some taste of the temper and disposition of the people, and discovers how they stand affected to the laws of England, and his Ma-

jesty's government; basely insinuating it to be, little better than bondage and slavery.

"I apprehend his Majesty is neither honored nor served by that government, as, at present, it is managed."

I have reduced this voluminous and somewhat verbose document, as much as possible, and I propose very briefly, to comment on some of the counts, though many of them, seem too puerile to merit notice, and all are evidently inspired by a captious and fault finding disposition, and are merely the reflex of discontent, on the part of those "gentlemen, most sufficient for estate," whose tory sentiments preclude them from the confidence of the community, or who have been on the losing side, in some legal contest.

I. The first count is answered by the fact, well known to us, that among the first acts of the settlers was the assignment of land for schools; and the Indians were improved about equally, by all who have come in contact with them.

II. The omission of "English," and "America," I cannot justify, but probably it was inadvertant.

III. I should think an occasional failure to hold a Session of the Legislature, when occasion did not require it, might be excused, on the plea, of expense and trouble, which was the probable reason.

IV. It was the practice to choose a Moderator to conduct the Annual Election, either as a matter of delicacy, or because they supposed the term of the Governor expired with the day preceding, it could be of no consequence if the outgoing Governor assented.

V. The allowing a freemen to send his vote, properly endorsed, secured his right, and infringed that of no other person, and brought out a fuller vote than could have been otherwise obtained, and was assented to by all, as conducive

to the public good, the only objection that could arise, was, that it gave no advantage to the disaffected party, who being in Newport, chiefly, could be present without inconvenience.

VI. The Charter gave to the Company absolute control of their militia, and the character of the government nowhere exhibits itself so signally as where they assert that right, in the contests with Joseph Dudley and Sir William Phipps. Whatever may have been Lord Bellomont's opinion, its introduction is impertinent, and needs no examination here.

VII. I will not attempt to justify an irregular election of members of the Assembly if it occurred, but I should like to know on what proof the assertion was made.

VIII. If Gov. Clarke, after resigning, resumed, to make a quorum, it is plain, that his resignation could not be accepted without a quorum, and was, "*Ipso facto*," void.

IX. I see no necessity for the intervention of a sheriff or writ of election in May 1699, or any other May, those elections being held according to Law.

X. This, if true, was through the inadvertance, or fault, of some subordinate officer.

XI. This power, whether rightly or otherwise, was exercised, by the General Assembly, for many years after the declaration of independence, and, in fact, within the memory of many of us; and one of our best known public men, before the adoption of the Constitution of the State, was wont to say, that "the General Assembly was omnipotent," which expression, (from the terms of the Charter,) during the period for which they were elected, seems logically justified, the forms by which they should administer justice, not being specified, and in no way indicated, except, that they should not violate the laws of England.

XII. How the government was expected to support itself, without that power which inheres in all government, the power "to raise and levy taxes and assessments on the people," Lord Bellomont does not vouchsafe to explain.

XIII. No Colony was ever denied the privilege of trying and punishing offenders within its own limits, and it is obvious that no community could long subsist, without the exercise of it. This power is implied, equally with the right of taxation, and I submit that both exceptions are, to the last degree, frivolous and vain.

XIV. The Admiralty power, the Colonists claimed and and exercised in good faith, as is evidenced by the tenacity and boldness of Walter Clarke, in his refusal to recognize and qualify Peleg Sanford and Nathaniel Coddington, as Judge and Clerk in Admiralty, under Commissions from the Crown.

XV. The irregularity of their judicial methods we may admit, but their intention was to administer justice equitably, and there is the best reason to believe, that they generally arrived at that result, which, of course, would not always be satisfactory to the parties litigant.

XVI. The illiteracy of their Attorney General, John Pocock, we have no means to investigate; presumably, in a primitive society, high legal attainments were rare, and not to be commanded by the amount of compensation afforded by the Colony.

XVII. We may or may not agree with Lord Bellomont as to the capacity or fitness of the Assistants, Justices &c. selected by the Colonists, or whether being "Quakers and Sectaries," should have incapacitated them, or whether, the "gentlemen most sufficient for estate, and best capacited and disposed for his Majesty's service," would have subserved

the purposes of the Colonists better, but we can readily comprehend, that, the right of election having been granted and guaranteed to them by the Crown, neither Lord Bellomont or the Board of Trade, or the Crown itself, had any right or power to call their determinations in question.

XVIII. The right to grant Letters of Marque and reprisal, is the point on which the most energetic representations are made, to the discredit and disadvantage of the Colonial government, and the fact that those Commissions, during the war with France, 1692 to 1697 were signed by the Duputy Governor, John Greene, is dwelt upon, with great force, and also the imperfect methods of granting them. All this is probably true. They were executed by the Duputy Governor, because the Governors, during that period were all Quakers, and therefore, unwilling to be direct promoters of violence. John Greene was evidently the master spirit in Colonial affairs, for a long period, and was not Governor, only because he would not remove to Newport, where it was thought essential that the Governor's residence should be. There is not a shadow of doubt that the Colony, in these matters, acted in good faith, and there is abundant evidence that the home government encouraged the Colonies in the exercise of this privilege on many subsequent occasions. If, after the conclusion of the war, some of those parties prostituted those commissions in prosecuting piratical acts, it is not very much to be wondered at, although there is no evidence of it afforded, except the assertions of the enemies of the Colony, founded, confessedly on common report.

XIX. That "the government is notoriously faulty in countenancing and harbouring pirates," is sustained by no better evidence than the preceding charge. Privateering is often defined as legalized piracy, with the same justice, war

is defined as legalized murder. Even in our enlightened times we know the demoralizing influence of war. It is hardly matter for wonder that men had loose ideas in regard to the enormity of preying on each other at the close of the Seventeenth century, remember that within one hundred years of that time Drake and Hawkins had been feted and toasted as heroes, and received the honor of knighthood for wholesale success in the most outrageous and inexcusable robbery and spoliation, that during those hundred years, all Europe had rung constantly with the clash of arms, the wars of the Parliament had devastated England, the thirty years war had laid waste Germany, the seige and sack of Magdeburg had left its foul influence upon the moral world, the dragounades of Louis XIV, were even then causing the soil of France to reek with innocent blood and the God Moloch seemed to have assumed to rule mankind. It is no wonder then, that many disquiet and adventurous spirits, with such influences surrounding them, should have been tempted to enter a field so well adapted to their purposes, as the distant and sparsely settled coasts of America then offered them.

It is very probable that many men of loose lives and criminal antecedents came to Rhode Island, and that some of them brought considerable amounts of money, obtained by other than legitimate means, but, is it likely that they brought with them, the means of convicting them of their iniquities? or that they ventured into communities where the proofs of their misdoings awaited them? It is one thing to suspect that a man who comes into a community with means, the possession of which you cannot explain, obtained them in an illegal manner, but it is entirely another thing to obtain such proof as will justify his arrest, and secure his conviction, for piracy on the coast of Madagascar, seven or eight thousand miles

distant, and entirely out of range of any commercial adventurers from New England.

The attempt on the part of Lord Bellomont and his abettors, to stigmatize a whole community as "*particeps criminis*," in the lawless acts of certain parties on the other side of the globe, is to me, supremely absurd, and certainly the whole community is involved in these charges, since the three men, to wit; Clarke, Greene and Cranston, whom they specifically denounce, are the men whom, for many years, the Colony selects to conduct their affairs and to whom for many years after, they continue the same confidence and preferment, and this too a community whose prominent fault, in Lord Bellomont's eyes, was that the predominant element in it were "Quakers," that charge was undoubtedly true, Walter Clarke, Henry Bull, John Easton and Caleb Carr, were Quakers, and all had been Governors of the Colony successively between the vacation of Andros and the succession of Cranston, ten years, and inferentially they were, at this time, the controlling element.

Observe again the logical incongruity of Lord Bellomont's positions. In one breath, he asserts that they have exercised admiralty powers, to which he denies them any claim, under the provisions of their Charter, and even objects, that they usurped the power to try and punish capital offenders, within their own limits. In the next breath he complains that they have failed in their duty of successfully acting as a police force, in protecting all his Majesty's subjects and the rest of mankind from depredations on the high seas, even to the antipodes.

XX. Lord B's objection to an affirmation instead of an oath was natural, and may be passed.

XXI. There being no journal of the Acts of the Council is easily explained; they had, before that time, no separate existence. The Assistants and Duputies, sat and acted, as one body, and there could be, therefore, no separate journal, nor does the Charter recognize any power in the Assistants except coordinately with the Duputies, whether sitting separately or in Common.

XXII. The Laws were not digested and arranged in the most perfect manner, which was a good reason that that duty should be enjoined on them, but not a reason for any imputation of criminality, a narrow economy probably explains this fact.

XXIII. The complaints of negligence in forwarding copies of the Laws, may have been well grounded, knowing the spirit in which they were to be criticized, it is not unlikely they were somewhat dilatory, and they, certainly, were amply justified in using great care in performing that duty,

XXIV and XXV. Those good subjects, who complained of the maladministration of the Laws, I apprehend to be such as were dissatisfied with decisions of land titles, about which there was much conflict, growing out of the pretensions of Massachusetts and Connecticut to jurisdiction in Kings Province, these would naturally be somewhat favorable to those parties claiming under Rhode Island.

Governor Cranston's speech, to which Lord B. alludes, was, evidently, a manly presentation of the case of the Colony, and he was plainly justified in insinuating that the innovations contemplated by Lord B. would reduce them to a condition little better than "bondage and slavery."

The fact that Gov. Cranston's speech, "was approved and applauded" by the Colonists, should be sufficient evidence, to our minds, that he was the right man in the right place,

however Lord Bellomont's mind may have been affected thereby.

Lord Bellomont's journal of his visit to Rhode Island, (*R. I. Col. Rec. Vol. III, page 388 to 393.*) describes his manner of conducting the examination, and exhibits the temper of the Colonists, very much to their credit, especially in the case of Gov. Cranston. He concludes the examination by notifying Gov. Cranston and the Council, that I Intended to leave this place tomorrow morning, and that I should empower Mr. Francis Brinley, Col. Peleg Sanford, Mr. Nathaniel Coddington, Mr. Caleb Arnold, and Mr. Josias Arnold, (to whom his Majesty's instructions referred me, for assistance,) to make further inquiries," &c. thus commending the flock to the protection of the wolves.

With all reverence for the overruling providence which guarded their interests, we cannot but be profoundly impressed with the wisdom and conduct which carried the Colonists through these trials, and persecutions, and finally achieved their triumphant vindication. In all this controversy, and in many others, particularly with Joseph Dudley, who, being of Colonial birth and antecedents' like all renegades, proved himself more abjectly servile to the Court and more bitterly hostile to the independence of the Colonists, than Lord Bellomont or Esquire Randolph themselves. Gov. Cranston must be regarded as the chief actor' on the part of the Colonists, and the temper, address and firmness, with which he carried himself, entitle him to very high estimation.

More correspondence of the parties, (*R. I. Col. Rec. Vol. III, page 394 to 400.*) gives more light on their relations, and the more they are studied and analyzed, the more distinctly will this view of the underlying motives of these unwarranted attacks appear, and the greater will be our wonder at

the insignificance of the agencies, through which, the grand designs of Providence are wrought out, and the apparently prodigious influences are overruled, in this crisis, by the power of an humble community in the hands of men, not of brilliant genius, nor of superior education or knowledge of the world, simply by manly adherence to a position, assumed from a sense of right. „Magna est veritas et Prevalebit.”

At the May Session, 1700, the same at which the appointment of Joseph Sheffield, as successor or associate of Jahleel Brenton, as agent for the Colony, had been revoked, thirty pounds, gratuity, was voted Gov. Cranston in addition to his salary, on account of his extraordinary charge and trouble, and shortly after, viz: May 13, 1700, (*R. I. Col. Rec. Vol. III, page 420.*) Gov. Cranston writes the King, in very humble and very deprecatory terms. After the usual preamble of thanks for former favors. he says;

And, in all humility, we do still beseech and humbly pray, that your Majesty will please to extend and continue your Royal grace and favor unto us, in the continuance of our privileges, according to our Charter, we being a small Colony, distinct from the other Colonies, which our predecessors, through much difficulty procured, having been a poor, distressed and persecuted people, and, through the good providence of God, we, with our predecessors, have been preserved, and wonderfully supported through more than ordinary difficulties and hardships, for upwards of sixty years; although our neighbors have endeavored, by all ways and means imaginable, to render us obnoxious and contemptible. And, not only so, but are endeavoring, as they have been, to deprive us of the greater part, if not all, that small portion allotted us, by our most gracious Charter, the which has caused us, at this time, (by our Agent, Jahleel Brenton, Esq., your Majesty's Col-

lector, in these parts,) to appear before your Most Serene Majesty, in Council, or before whom else, your Majesty shall appoint, to lay before your Majesty, the justness of our cause, and to answer such things as, through envy or malice, hath or shall be objected against us; and also to implore your Majesty's most gracious pardon, for what of weakness hath been committed by us, not doubting but, through your princely clemency and justice, to receive a favorable acceptance and fair hearing, and that, your poor yet loyal subjects may always remain under your especial protection, and be only responsible to our Sovereign Lord, the King, to make our true defence against complaints, &c."

This missive breathes nothing but the most devoted loyalty to the King and confidence in him, but it expresses great jealousy of any influence, the other Colonies might be disposed to exercise in their affairs, and especially, it implies that they claim a more direct approach to the fountain of power, than through Lord Bellomont and those he had deputed to conclude his investigation, or even the Board of Trade themselves, in fact, it brings before us in a very compact and forcible manner, the variety and magnitude of the antagonistic forces, by which they were surrounded. At the same time, it leaves room for the implication, notwithstanding its tone of humility and deference, of a firm determination to avail of all the franchises guaranteed by the Charter, against whomsoever might be the aggressor, though he were the King himself.

At the Session, May 7, 1701, the Assmby voted :

"That there shall be ten pounds annually, added to the former salary, yearly allowed the Governor; which said salary amounts to forty pounds per year; any act to the contrary notwithstanding." (*R. I. Col. Rec. Vol. III, page 430.*)

We have seen that the Colony were put upon trial, in 1699, by Lord Bellomont, again they are brought into controversy with Joseph Dudley, who had succeeded, as Governor of Massachusetts, in 1702, and who claimed, under a Royal Commission, the supreme command of all the militia in New England, whether in active service or not. This claim was resisted by Gov. Cranston, in the same firm and able manner as he had heretofore exercised in encountering the encroachments of Crown Officers on the rights vested in the Colony by the Charter. (*Documents, R. I. Col. Rec. Vol. III, pages 459 to 463.*)

“ September 3, 1702, Gov. Dudley, with 7 members of ‘ her Majesty’s Council of Massachusetts Bay,’ went to Gov. Cranston’s house, where he was met by ‘ Governor Cranston and the Council of the said Collony of Rhode Island, by appointment.

At this meeting Gov. Dudley gave notice, that, “ for the better safety and defence of her Majesty’s subjects and interest, within the Colonies of Rhode Island and the Narragansett country, or Kings province, in the time of war; (it being now such,) her Majesty had been pleased, by her royal Commission, to constitute and appoint him her Captain General of all the forces, forts, and places of strength, within the same,” and also that he had been likewise commissioned as Vice Admiral of the same, &c.

At a meeting, next day, Sept. 4th., Gov. Cranston informed his Excellency that Major Martindale, (who commanded the Island Militia,) was authorized, by himself and the Council to acquaint him with their opinion, on what had been presented yesterday. Mr. Martindale, after the reading of the clause of the Charter relating to the Militia, said that the Governor and Council could not give any answer, without

consulting the General Assembly, to which Gov. Dudley replied that "he had nothing to do with an Assembly, in that affair, but with the Governor and Council."

"P. M. His Excellency, (Gov. Dudley,) issued forth his warrant, directed to Major Martindale, Major of the Island Regiment, to cause his regiment to appear in arms tomorrow morning."

"Saturday, September 5th., A. M.

"Major Martindale waited upon his Excellency, at his lodging, and excused his not executing his Excellency's warrant, sent him yesterday, to cause his regiment to appear in arms this morning, for that, by his Commission, he was to observe the direction of the General Assembly, or the Governor and Council of that Colony, and was sworn accordingly, and read that clause in his Commission, and the form of the oath."

"At noon [5th.] his Excellency, with the gentlemen that waited upon him, from Boston, departed from the Island, and went over to Bristol." Doubtless in intense disgust.

On the 7th., Gov. Dudley visited Narragansett, where he was welcomed "by the gentlemen of the place," and was received by Capt. Daniel Eldridge, with his Company in Arms.

"Then his Excellency tendered the oath of allegiance to the officers of the Militia, who cheerfully took it, and after them, the whole body of the Soldiers in Arms."

"On Sept. 17th., Gov. Dudley reports to the Board of Trade and says among other things, that the Governor and Council of R. Island came near to Rochester, the day after his visit there, expressed their displeasure, to the officers, "and since have used all methords to bring back the people to confusion." And concludes by expressing his opinion, that the government of Rhode Island, in the present hands, is a scan-

dal to her Majesty's government. And no man in the government, of any estate or education, though in the Province, there be men of very good estates, ability and loyalty, but the Quakers will, by no means admit them to any trust, nor would they now except it, in hopes of a dissolution of that misrule, and that they may be brought under her Majesty's immediate government in all things, which the major part by much of the whole people, would pray for, but dare not, for fear of the oppression and affront of the Quakers' party, making a noise of their Charter."

On the same date, (Sept. 17,) a letter is addressed by the Assembly, to Gov. Dudley, asserting that the whole power of the militia is granted to them, by the Charter, as well as, by her late Majesty Queen Mary, by authority bearing date Aug. 22, 1694, and finding in his Excellency's Commission, no express order, superseding their authority, they decline to recognise his pretensions.

In Gov. Dudley's report, above referred to, he says, "The Quakers raged indecently, saying they were ensnared and ruined."

Also, on his demanding the names of their (military) officers; "but could obtain nothing of them, but stubborn refusal, saying, they would lose all at once, and not by peices."

To judge by Dudley's temper and disposition towards Rhode Island, allow me to refer you to a report; signed by him in common with Edward Cranfield and four other of their persistent enemies, dated Oct 20, 1683, (*R. I. Col. Rec. Vol. III, pages 140 to 145,*) and to Edward Cranfield's letter to the Board of Trade, of Oct. 19, 1683, (*ibid, pages 146 and 147,*) also to letter of Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay to Dudley, on his assuming his duties, as

President of the Dominion of New England, dated May 20, 1686. (*ibid* page 203.)

Remember also, that Pynchon, Stoughton and Saltonstall, three of those who had signed the report of Oct. 20, 1683, with Cranfield and Dudley, were of President Dudley's Council; that, for four years, he had been one of the Commissioners of the United Colonies, whose inveterate and untiring hostility to Rhode Island need not now be urged. No name more odious to the people of Rhode Island, could have been selected from her multitudinous ill-wishers.

Reflect too, that on an expedition for purely military purposes, he, Dudley, is not attended by Aides de Camp, and military functionaries, but by the members of the civil government of Massachusetts. No wonder that the government and people of Rhode Island were struck with consternation, and that the Quakers, as he styles them, gave vent to expressions of indignation, which, in his partial appreciation, seemed indecent. Their situation seemed to them, as it seems to me, to be almost desperate; the long struggle of their lives, and of the lives of their fathers, was about to culminate in their subjection to Massachusetts, or rather, they were to become an integral part of a Royal Province which Massachusetts, to all intents and purposes then was. (It is observable that Gov. Dudley styles Rhode Island a Province, in his report,) in which her voice would never be again regarded, and which fate could not, by them, be otherwise regarded than as worse than the bondage of Egypt.

The presence of the Council of Massachusetts, on Rhode Island soil, where they could have no pretence of jurisdiction was not an accident, the intention was, that Dudley should take his obligation, under his Commission, in presence of the Massachusetts Council, it being supposed, that the Rhode Island Council would refuse to administer it, in this he was

foiled, Gov. Cranston, with admirable judgment, administered the oath to him, thus defeating this well concerted scheme.

Samuel Cranston, by his first wife, Mary Hart, daughter of Thomas and Freeborn (Williams) Hart, had :

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| i MARY, | v THOMAS, |
| ii JOHN, | vi FRANCES, |
| iii JAMES, | vii HART. |
| iv SAMUEL. | No issue by second wife. |

III

APPENDIX.

Papers presented by George K. Cranston, of Providence.

I. Genealogical sketch of the Families of Cranston, Crawford &c.

From the Providence Gazette of October 23, 1813.

Printed and Published by John Carter.

Prepared by the Honorable Theodore Foster.

The several families of Cranston who reside in the town of Foster, Rhode Island, are descended from that Lord Cranston whose marriage with a daughter of the distinguished Earl of Buccleugh, is immortalized by Scott, in his " Lay of the last Minstrel," that celebrated metrical romance being founded on real incidents which attended it. The Court Armour belonging to that family is mentioned by Mr. Scott, in a note

to one of his poems. Through Lord Cranston's family they are descended from the families of the ancient Earls of Crawford, Bothwell and Traquair, and through them related by blood to the present Royal Family of Great Britain, for Lord William Cranston, so created by James 6th., King of Scotland Nov. 19, 1609, had a son, James Cranston, who married Elizabeth Stuart, daughter of Sir Francis Stuart, Earl of Bothwell, and grandson of James 5th., which James Cranston had a son, John Cranston, who married Christian Stuart, daughter of Sir Robert Stuart, predecessor of the Earl of Traquair, also descended from the Royal Family of Stuart, which John Cranston was grandfather of John Cranston, who when a young man came from Scotland to Newport, in the time of Oliver Cromwell, and married Mary Clarke, daughter of Jeremiah Clarke, was one of the petitioners for the Charter granted by Charles 2nd., and was afterwards Governor of the State, and died while holding that office March 12, 1680. He came from Scotland in consequence of the temporary depression of the family under Cromwell, his great Uncle Lord William Cranston having attended King Charles 2nd., in the battle of Worcester Sept. 3, 1651, was made prisoner, confined in the Tower of London, had his estate confiscated, and was particularly excepted out of Cromwell's Act of Indemnity, though the title and estate were afterwards restored to the family, which they now enjoy in Scotland. Governor John Cranston had a son Samuel Cranston, who was also elected Governor of the State, and served in that office 29 years successively, without opposition, viz: from 1698 to 1727, having died while holding that office, just after his 30th. election. He was one of the proprietors of the Westquodnoid Purchase in the south part of the Town of Foster, Rhode Island. They have genealogies and family memorials certified from the

Lyon Heraldry Office in Edinburgh, and otherwise indubitably authenticated proving their descent for generations from Lord William Cranston, who married Helen Lindsay, daughter of James Lindsay, predecessor of the Earl of Crawford, and ancestor of all the name and blood of Crawford, descended from Gideon Crawford, who came from Scotland and settled in Providence in consequence of his relationship to the Cranston family, then powerful and influential in the State, as did also some of each of the families of Carr, Scott and Tweedy at Newport, all connected and related to each other and to the family of Governor John Cranston, all distinguished in their day, and from all of whom are many respectable descendants in different parts of this State, Caleb Carr having been Governor of this State in 1695 and Gideon Crawford one of the most distinguished citizens of Providence of which Town he was a number of years one of the Representatives in the General Assembly, his daughter Anna Crawford having married Peleg Carr of Newport Nov. 29, 1711. All these families are descended from Scottish families mentioned in the notes to the "Lay of the Last Minstrel" and other poems of Mr. Scott.

These minutes are made from the before mentioned memorials of the Cranston families in Foster, which also contains a curious and interesting genealogical and biographical account of their immediate ancestors in a lineage of 26 generations from William the Conqueror, son of Robert, Duke of Normandy, descended from Canute the second Danish King of England. William the Conqueror was born in 1027 and married Matilda, daughter of Baldwin 5th. Earl of Flanders, and from him their genealogy is regularly deduced, with historical references, from which it appears that their ancestors may be traced back in various lineages of the ancient Royal

Families of Europe for more than a Thousand years, having had 10 ancestors in the English Royal Lineage, viz: William the Conqueror, his son Henry 1st, Matilda daughter of Henry 1st., crowned Queen but set aside by King Stephen, Henry 2nd., Henry 3rd., King John, the three first Edwards, and Henry 7th., descended from John of Gaunt, 4th son of King Edward 3d., which Henry was grandson of the before named James 5th., King of Scotland, whose daughter the famous Mary Queen of Scots, was mother of James 1st., of England and 6th. of Scotland, the crown of both nations having been united in him on the death of Queen Elizabeth March 24, 1603.

II. Letter from Theodore Foster to the Editor of the Providence Gazette.

Foster, Oct. 7, 1813.

John Carter, Esq.

Dear Sir:

The family of Cranston has heretofore been greatly distinguished and influential in this State, Gov. John Cranston having been nearly related to King Charles II. for whom the Cranston family suffered much. He was one of the petitioners for the Charter, which is now the Constitution of the State. He came to Newport when young in consequence of the persecution of the Family by Oliver Cromwell. His uncle was one of the seven Scottish Lords, taken at the battle of Worcester, when Charles I, army was defeated, and his father or grandfather having been Chaplain to King Charles I, and the family nearly related to the Royal Family, and whose


cause they espoused. Lord Cranston was singled out for persecution and confined in the Tower of London, soon after which, his nephew came to this State and married Mary Clarke, daughter of Gov. Walter Clarke.* Their son Samuel Cranston, was 29 years Governor of the State and many of the principal Founders of the State are descended from them and their connections. One of their descendants, Miss Zilpha Cranston died in this Town on the 28th ult., in the 24th. year of her age. She was a very worthy and a very amiable character. I have enclosed an obituary notice of it which it would much gratify her friends to have published in your paper if you think it proper on the occasion. It is sent to no other office by advice of several of us this way who take your paper, which is brought to us by Mr. Cooke, and the numerous friends and connections of the family will be much gratified to see it in your useful and entertaining Gazette, and I believe it will be acceptable to the Public from the historical information which it contains interesting to the descendants of those families of whom Walter Scott has published so many valuable and entertaining anecdotes in his notes to his Poems. Should the whole be published or only the First two or First three paragraphs it will gratify the friends of the family if you will strike off Ten extra copies for them for which I will see you paid fully to your satisfaction.

I am with much esteem and respect ready to serve you at all times as occasion shall offer;

Your old Friend & Servant in haste:

Theodore Foster.

* According to the records at Newport Gov. John Cranston married Mary, daughter of Jeremiah, not that of Gov. Walter Clarke, in 1658, as stated in the text

 This obituary notice of Miss Zilpha Cranston being a personal matter has been omitted from the text here printed in the article to which this letter alludes.

III. Letter from Theodore Foster.

Foster, October 16, 1822.

Barzillai Cranston, Esq.;

Dear Sir:

The distinguished rank which the family of Cranston have holden in this State, for which it has furnished two memorable and much esteemed Governors, — John Cranston and Samuel Cranston, father and son, — the latter of whom served 29 years in that office viz: from 1698 to 1727 when he died while holding the office of Governor just after his thirtieth election, added to the friendship and sincere esteem which I have had for your parents ever since I have been acquainted with them and their family, an acquaintance which began about the beginning of this Century, induced me to collect from various authentic sources an historical account of the family. This account I have entitled “Memoirs of the Cranston Family in the Town of Foster in the State of Rhode Island, descended from the ancient Royal Families of Scotland, England, France, Spain, &c., with interesting particulars of the family and their ancestors in connection with the History of the State and the Counties in which they resided.”

In several of the last interviews which I have had with you and in some of your letters you informed me of the failure of the descent of the title and honors to known heirs in Europe and that it was probable that they had legally descended to one of that name in this State, and possibly to one of this

Town. This induced me to promise you some extracts from those memoirs by which you may better trace out the genealogy of the Family and their title to any existing honors of the Family in Scotland or elsewhere.

I therefore begin those extracts in this letter intending to continue them in a series of letters which I shall mark numerically from this date, in the hope, if they answer no other purpose they will at least gratify a laudable curiosity to know something of our ancestors who have been honorably distinguished in their generations, whose memory ought to be transmitted to their latest posterity.

Extracts from Memoirs of the Family of Cranston, in the Town of Foster, in the State of Rhode Island &c.

“The family of Cranston took their name from the Lands of Cranstovn in Mid Lothian in the County of Edinburgh in Scotland, a few miles from that City. Thomas de Cranstoun in the year 1329 in the Reign of King David II, obtained a Charter of the lands of his name and from him descended Sir John Cranston of that Ilk, whose only daughter and heiress was married to Sir William Cranston of Morriston, a branch of his own family, which Sir William Cranston was by King James VI, of Scotland, afterward James I, of England made Captain of the Guard and November 19th., 1609, Baron Lord Cranston in Mid Lothian, near Edinburgh, where the family resided, were distinguished and flourished for several hundred years. The Seat there was at length sold to the Dalrymple family previous to the year 1729, when the 30th. edition of Chamberlain’s Present State of Great Britain was published in which at the 298th. page, the seat is mentioned under the name of Cranstoun, “once Lord Cranstoun now John Dalrymple.” But the principal Seat of the Family

is at Craeling in Roxburghshire, as mentioned in Salmon's *Short Views of the Scottish Nobility*, printed in London A. D. 1759, lent to the writer of these memoirs at Newport, June 17, 1801, — see page 135 of that work, — Salmon in the last mentioned work says, “ the Right Hon. James Cranston in the County of Edinburgh, succeeded his father, the late Lord, and married Sophia, daughter of Jeremiah Brown. William, the late Lord Cranston, married Lady Jane Kerr, daughter of William, the second Marquis of Lothian, by whom he had the present Lord, viz; in 1759, and William, an officer of the army who died in Dunkirk in 1753. Of this family was Efric de Cranstoun, who was witness to a Charter of William King of Scots to the Abbey of Holy Rood House.”

The writer of these memoirs was at the house of Mrs. Mary Styles in Newport, widow of the late Rev. Ezra Styles, Professor of Yale College, on Wednesday June 17, 1801, which said Mary Styles was daughter of Benjamin Cranston, descended from Governor John Cranston, and had in her possession a memorial in the handwriting of Governor Samuel Cranston. which she lent to the writer hereof, and which he copied in the evening of that day at the house of Mr. Benjamin Brenton, a descendant of Governor Samuel Cranston, in these words, viz :

“ Our grandfather James Cranston, was Chaplain to King Charles First, was son to John Cranston and Christian his wife, daughter to Sir Robert Stuart, predecessor of the Earl of Traquair. John Cranston was son to James Cranston, (brother to John, Lord Cranston,) and Elizabeth his wife, daughter to Francis Stuart, Earl of Bothwell, and which James was son of William, Lord Cranston and Helen his wife daughter to James Lindsey, predecessor of the Earl of Crawford;

William, Lord Cranston,
James Cranston,
John Cranston,
James Cranston,
John Cranston,
Samuel Cranston."

The foregoing is a true copy from the memorial in the handwriting of Governor Samuel Cranston, which was lent to me by Mrs. Mary Styles, as before mentioned, and copied here at Foster Oct. 16, 1822.

Witness;

Theodore Foster.

I intend writing to you again soon and to forward to you copies from the Lion Heraldry Office,* formerly kept at Edinburgh, relative to the Genealogy of the Cranston Family for which Twelve pounds Sterling was paid by Mrs. Forquaher on behalf of Governor Samuel Cranston. Accept my sincere thanks for several copies of the Rhode Island American, which you have given and sent to me by mail, and believe me, as I am very sincerely

Your friend:

Theodore Foster.

* P. S. Joseph Kinnicutt Angell, Esq., of Providence, has informed me that the ancient records of that office are now in London.

IV. *From the Rhode Island Republican, published at Newport July 6, 1836.*

Memors of Rhode Island.
1727.

Death of Gov'r Samuel Cranston.

Unfortunately but little has been preserved of the life of Gov'r Cranston. His high examples unsullied fame and useful life, procured him the applause and esteem of all who knew him. As Governor of this State he stood preeminent and it is no disparagement to others if we assign him the rank of the ablest among the able that have filled that station either before or since.

He was the son of John Cranston, who was Governor of Rhode Island in the year 1680. After sustaining various other offices in this government he was elected Governor some time in the year 1697, doubtless by the General Assembly, in the room of Walter Clarke, who was chosen the May previous, and must have resigned during that political year, when Governor Cranston was elected his successor in office. These facts are drawn from the Court Records, the Records of the General Assembly for the year 1697 being mostly missing. He continued in the office of Governor from that time until his death, which occurred April 26, 1727, having been elected to that office thirty times in succession.

He was called to the Chair of State in one of the most dangerous and embarrassing periods of the Colony's history, possessing in an eminent degree the talents to carry it through the storms that assailed and perils that threatened its political existence. He conducted the little barque of State with wisdom, prudence and economy, and left her to his successors with a government practically settled, a people happy, prosperous and free. The people rendered a just tribute to the man, while living, by electing him for their chief magistrate for a much longer period than any one before or since, and after his death when the rage of party became exceedingly violent in the Colony, some now living have heard the aged people regret that state of things and compare it with the

peaceful and happy days of the good old Governor Cranston.

He was endowed with a sound painstaking and discriminating mind, and must have been a good scholar for that day, from his handwriting and diction, much of which is still extant, the latter was plain, comprehensive and laconic. His handwriting and signature possessed an ease, plainness and elegance not often exceeded at the present day. He was an able and impartial judge as appears by his decrees and decisions, still to be seen on record. He possessed a considerable landed estate, in various parts of the Colony, viz: Narragansett, Greenwich and Providence, as appears by his will now before us, a farm of 100 acres in Newport lying on the west side of the road leading to Middletown, and a little beyond the windmills, which 100 acres is now possessed by Wm. Thurston and others. This farm he ordered to be sold to pay legacies. His homestead house was the one owned and occupied by the late Governor Gibbs, on the west side of Thames street. Within 50 years there have been old people who remembered seeing him sitting in the stoop under a tree smoking his pipe. His father's, John Cranston's residence, was on the other side of the street and stood some distance back. It was built of stone and was taken down by the late Charles Feke, some time since the revolutionary war, but the house occupied by the last Governor Cranston is still standing and in good repair. We are informed by tradition that in early life he went a voyage to sea and was not heard from in some years and that he was supposed to be dead, and his wife having an offer of marriage accepted it and was on the eve of solemnizing the marriage ceremony, but Cranston having arrived in Boston hastened homewards, and at Howland's ferry just before night was informed that his wife was to be married that evening. With increased speed he flew to New-

port, but not until the wedding guests had begun to assemble. She was called by a servant into the kitchen, a person being there who wished to speak with her. A man in a sailors habit advanced and informed her that her husband had arrived in Boston, and that he requested him to inform her that he was on his way to Newport. This information induced her to question the man very closely. He then told her that he had seen her husband at Howland's ferry that very afternoon, and that he was on his way to Newport. He then stepped towards her, raised his cap, and pointed to a scar on his head, or forehead, and said, "do you recollect that scar?" from which she at once recognized her husband actually in her presence! He then entertained the wedding guests with a history of his adventures and sufferings, having been captured by pirates and not having had the opportunity or means of communicating the fact to her. Having at last escaped out of their hands on his way home he arrived at Boston and from thence to Howland's ferry, and from there with increased anxiety and speed to the arms of his wife. This anecdote was narrated to a person now living by an aged woman who died 40 or 50 years since, and who was personally acquainted with Governor Cranston's family.

His person was small, of dark complexion, a quick black searching eye. His deportment procured the respect and esteem of those acquainted with him. He was particularly urbane towards children and young people.

He was liberal to the poor and placed in the hands of his executors a legacy to be used for charitable purposes. In short, he was impartial, benevolent and good, attached to no particular sect, but always anxious for the public good.

We have seen an ancient manuscript in the cabinet of the Historical Society, viz: "He did not assemble with any sect

nor attend any public meetings. The Charter granted a universal liberty of conscience and he was a keep at home protestant. He was an impartial and good man."

One double tombstone covers the father and son, and lies in the common burying place in Newport containing the following inscriptions.

"Here lieth the body of John Cranston, Esq., Governor of the Colony of Rhode Island, &c. He departed this life March 12th. 1680, in the 55th. year of his age.

Here lieth the body of Samuel Cranston Esq. late Governor of this Colony, aged 68 years, and departed this life April 26th., A. D., 1727. He was son of John Cranston Esq. who was also Governor here in 1680. He was descended from the noble Scottish Lord Cranston, and carried in his veins a stream of the ancient Earls of Crawford, Bothwell and Traquair, having for his grandfather James Cranstoun, Clerk, Chaplain to King Charles the First. His great grandfather was John Cranston of Bool Esq; this last was son to James Cranston Esq. which James was son of William, Lord Cranston.

Rest happy now brave patriot without end,
Thy Country's father and thy Country's friend."

Governor Cranston's wife Mary, was buried in the Clifton burying place. She was the daughter of Freeborn Clarke, by a former husband. Said Freeborn Clarke was daughter of Roger Williams, who first settled the Town of Providence. She is also buried in the Clifton burying place, where a grave stone is erected over the mother and daughter, which is engraved as follows:

The body of mother and daughter,
Here interred doth rest
When pious souls without any doubt
Are forever blest.

Here lies interred Mary late the wife of Samuel Cranston Esq. Governor of this Colony who deceased the 17th. day of the 7th. month, Sept. in the 48th. year of age
1710.

Here lyeth interred Freeborne late the wife of Walter Clarke Esq. late the Gov'r and Dep. Gov'r of this Colony, who deceased the 10th. of 11th. month called January, in the 73d. year of her age
1709-10.

Gov'r Cranston's last wife was named Judith, but it is probable his children were by his wife Mary, who was a grand daughter of Roger Williams. Their names were :

Mary, who died unmarried.

John, eldest son, born 1686, died Oct. 15, 1745.

James.

Samuel.

Thomas, settled at Swansey, and died at sea.

Frances, married Jahleel Brenton.

Hart, married Nathan Hatch.

The only descendant of Gov'r Cranston in the male line, that we now know of is Barzillai Cranston, of Providence.

A detailed genealogical account of the Cranston family is preserved in the Cabinet of the Historical Society in Providence.

V. *Genealogical Notes.*

Edward I, was born 1239, married Eleanor, 1254, crowned Aug. 19, 1274, married Princess Margaret Sept. 8, 1299, and died July 7, 1307.

Eleanor died 1290.

Princess Margaret was born 1281.

Queen Victoria descended from Edward I, King of England, by Eleanor, daughter of Ferdinand, King of Castile and Leon, married in 1254 and died in 1290.


Governor John Cranston descended from Edward I, King of England, by Margaret, 2nd. wife, daughter of Philip III, King of France, married Sept. 8, 1299.

See "Burkes Royal Families of England, Scotland and Wales," Vols. I and II, A. D., 1851.

VI. *Will of Mary Stanton*, (Wife of John Stanton, and widow of John Cranston.)

Presented by John O. Austin.

Dated Nov. 1st. 1708. Proved June 10, 1711. She mentions five children, Samuel, John and Benjamin Cranston, Elizabeth Brown, and Henry Stanton. She also mentions son in law John Brown, and grandchildren John and Robert Brown, (sons of John Brown,) John Cranston, (son of Samuel Cranston,) and grand-daughter Mary Cranston.

 In a future number of the Register we shall present an ancient genealogical sketch of the family from the earliest records extant down to the time of the emigration of certain members to this country, together with other interesting matter illustrating this historical and influential family. The reader or owner of this copy of the family history is respectfully requested to preserve it carefully for future reference. Parties having genealogical or historical papers or records of the family, will confer a great favor if they will send copies of the same or the originals to be copied and returned to them to either Henry E. Turner, M. D., of Newport, R. I., or to George K. Cranston, Esq, City Savings Bank, Providence, R. I., or Editor of the Narragansett Historical Register, 30 Eddy street,, Providence, R. I. All communications of this character will be most thankfully received by the above named, and a cordial invitation to assist them is extended unto all those who may feel disposed to do so. The Editor.

✓ THE RECORD OF OLD SMITHFIELD.
1732 to 1850.

By the Editor.

Continued from Vol. VII., page 163.

S

MARRIAGES.

Sabin Thomas, and Mary Brown; m. by William Arnold,
Justice, Mar. 4, 1741-2.

Sandborn Stephen, of Jonathan, dec., and Aranda Colvin,
formerly of Scituate, dau. of David; m. by John
Pain, Justice, Apr. 13, 1740.

Saulsbury Sarah, and Obediah Ballou; Dec. 26, 1740.

“ Susannah, and William Irwin; Nov. 2, 1748.

“ Philip, of Peleg, and Betsey Smith, of John; m.
by Rev. Reuben Allen, Jan. 12, 1840.

“ Emeline, and James E. Moffatt; Apr. 12, 1845.

“ Sarah, and Abel Steere; June 1, 1846.

Saunders Samuel, and Abigail Mowry; m. by Thomas Steere,
Justice, Aug. 9, 1752.

“ Esek, of Johnston, R. I., son of Henry, dec., and
Abigail Angell, of Christopher; m. by Rev.
Samuel Winsor, Jan. 11, 1778.

“ Mary, and Daniel M. Inman; Dec. 23, 1839.

“ Lucy, and Elisha R. Waterman; Jan. 22, 1843.

Sawyer Philena S., and Libbeus Gaskill; Oct. 19, 1841.

- “ William, of Providence, and Mary Ann Wood, of Smithfield, dau. of Jonathan and Betsey, of Attleboro, Mass.; m. by Rev. Warren Lincoln. Nov. 3, 1850.

Sayer Edward G., and Lucy H. Whitaker; m. by Rev. Reuben Allen, Oct. 6, 1839.

Sayles Elizabeth, and Jonathan Mowry; Mar. 13, 1736.

- “ Eliza, and Jonathan Mowry; Mar. 13, 1736.

- “ Capt. Richard, and Alice Arnold; m. by William Arnold, Justice, May 14, 1738.

- “ Mary, and Benjamin Ballard; July 27, 1738.

- “ Richard, Jr., and Abigail Hawkins; m. by Thomas Sayles, Justice, Sept. 2, 1742.

- “ John, Jr., and Martha Arnold; m. by William Jenckes, Justice, Dec. 19, 1742.

- “ Anne, and Sylvanus Sayles; June 12, 1746.

- “ Sylvanus, of Thomas, and Anne Sayles, of John, m. by Thomas Steere, Justice, June 12, 1746.

- “ Elisha, and Martha Inman; m. by Thomas Sayles, Justice, Sept. 10, 1747.

- “ Margaret, and Elkanah Sherman, Oct. 18, 1747.

- “ Phebe, and Stephen Sayles; Feb. 4, 1747-8.

- “ Stephen, of Thomas, Esq., and Phebe Sayles, of John, m. by Thomas Sayles, Justice, Feb. 4, 1747-8.

- “ Ezekiel, and Rebecca Pain; m. by Thomas Lapham, Justice, May 14, 1749.

- “ Daniel, and Susannah Jillson; m. by Thomas Sayles, Justice, Feb. 11, 1749.

- “ Joseph, and Patience Ballou; m. by Thomas Lapham, Justice, July 10, 1752.

- Sayles Gideon, and Sarah Shippee; m. by Thomas Lapham, Justice, July 26, or Aug. 23, 1752.
- “ Jonathan, and Elizabeth Pain; m. by Stephen Sly, Justice Aug. 24, 1755.
- “ Thomas, and Mary Slocum; m. by Daniel Mowry, Jr., Justice, June 13, 1757.
- “ Zilpha, and Job Mowry; Mar. 20, 1760.
- “ Mary, and Uriah Alverson; Apr. 16, 1761.
- “ Elizabeth, and Simeon Smith; Apr. 7, 1762.
- “ David, and Anne Smith; m. by Izreal Sayles, Justice, Aug. 10, 1763.
- “ Sarah, and John Mowry; Mar. 19, 1765.
- “ Rhoda. and Elijah Phillips; Aug. 29, 1765.
- “ Anne, and James Appleby. Apr. 12, 1770.
- “ Ruth, and James Arnold; Aug. 22, 1771.
- “ Mary, and Thomas Smith; Jan. 9, 1772.
- “ Ishmeal of John, and Deborah Aldrich, of Samuel; m. by William Winsor, Justice, Oct. 7, 1773.
- “ John, of Richard, and Abia Pain, of Benjamin; m. by Daniel Smith, Justice, Jan. 31, 1774.
- “ Leah, and Benjamin Newell; Aug. 13, 1775.
- “ Oziel, of Sylvanus, and Sylvia Bowen, of Richard; m. by Uriah Alverson, Justice, Jan. 7, 1776.
- “ Esek, of Smithfield, and Sarah Cowen, of Gloucester; m. at Gloucester by Timothy Willmarsh, Justice, Dec. 30, 1776.
- “ Ellis, and Beriah White; Dec. 18, 1777.
- “ Stuteley, of David, and Abigail Alverson, of Uriah; m. by Stephen Brayton, Justice, Mar. 5, 1780.
- “ Smith, of Smithfield, and Abigail Scott, of Bellingham, Mass.; m. by Uriah Alverson, Justice, July 30, 1780.

Sayles Rachel, and Christopher Wilbur; Nov. 15, 1781.

“ John, 3d. son of John, and Tamar Cook, of Samuel;
m. by Stephen Arnold, Justice, Dec. 27, 1781.

“ Stephen, and Rose Shippee; m. by Uriah Alverson,
Justice, Jan. 2, 1783.

“ Amie, and Stephen Jenckes, Aug. 5, 1784.

“ Charles, of Sylvanus, and Charlotte Mowry, of Stephen;
m. by Uriah Alverson, Justice, Jan. 27, 1785.

“ John, of John, and Amie Mowry, of Philip; m. by
Stephen Arnold, Justice, Nov. 5, 1786.

“ Abigail, and Jesse Jenckes; June 28, 1787.

“ Benjamin, of Jonathan, and Lydia Smith, of Jeremiah;
m. by Rev. Edward Mitchell, June 28, 1787.

“ Hannah, and Joseph Mowry; Dec. 5, 1792.

“ Jonathan, of Jonathan, and Zerviah Mowry, of Philip;
m. by John Sayles, Justice, Aug. 15, 1793.

“ Charles, of Sylvanus, of Smithfield, and Lydia Peters,
of Mark, of Gloucester; m. by John Sayles, Justice,
Aug. 24, 1794.

“ Zerna, and Welcome Harris; May 26, 1796.

“ Gideon, of Jonathan, and Sally Ballou, of Cumberland,
dau. of Benjamin; m. Joel Aldrich, Justice, Feb.
26, 1797.

“ Martha, and Israel Arnold; Jan. 6, 1799,

“ Lydia, and Noah Smith; Aug. 21, 1801.

“ Irene, and Job Randall; Feb. 27, 1803.

“ Nathaniel, of John, Jr., and Zerviah Steere, of Enock;
m. by Daniel Winsor, Justice, May 1, 1806.

“ Caleb, of Esek, of Smithfield, and Rhoda Smith, of
James, of Gloucester; m. by Richard Steere, Justice,
May 4, 1806.

“ Polly, and George Aldrich; Apr. 30, 1807.

- Sayles Nathaniel, of John, and Mrs. Anna Aldrich, of Simon;
m. by Samuel Man, Justice, Jan. 26, 1812.
- " Thankful, and David Wilkinson; Dec. 27, 1812.
- " Joel, of Stephen, and Catharine Emerson; m. by Robert Harris, Justice, June 23, 1813.
- " Urania, and Tyler Mowry; Mar. 16, 1815.
- " Rachel, and Simeon Newell; Mar. 28, 1819.
- " Parley, and Thomas Enches; Feb. 14, 1820.
- " Joanna, and Jesse B. Sweet; Dec. 25, 1821.
- " Abigail, and Adin Ballou; Jan. 17, 1822.
- " Sally, and Henry Scott; Feb. 6, 1822.
- " Levina, and William Enches; Jan. 3, 1823.
- " Richard, of Smith, and Fannie Jeffers, of John; m. Mar. 16, 1823.
- " Ephriam, of Smithfie'd, son of Jonathan, and Esther Mowry, of Burrillville, dau. of Jeremiah; m. by Syria Steere, Justice, Mar. 18, 1830.
- " Thomas, of Providence, and Olive Swan; m. by Rev. Reuben Allen, June 17, 1839.
- " Jane, and Nelson Gardiner; July 25, 1839.
- " William S., of Scituate, son of Robert, and Amanda Leavens, of Oliver, of Smithfield; m. by Rev. Reuben Allen, Feb. 17, 1840.
- " Rachel, and Jesse Phetteplace; Jan. 28, 1841.
- " Joanna, and Onn Hunt; Dec. — 1849.
- Scholes Hannah, and Richard Hollowell; Mar. 1, 1848.
- Scholfield Martha, and William H. Sherman; May 13, 1849.
- Scott Freelove, and David Razy; Mar. 12, 1738.
- " Mary, and Charles Capron; Dec. 16, 1742.
- " Abraham, and Martha Jenckes; m. by William Jenckes, Justice, Mar. 3, 1745-6.
- " Elizabeth, and Daniel Cook; Dec. 25, 1746.

Scott Joseph, and Leah Capron; m. by William Arnold, Justice, June 21, 1750.

“ Sarah, and Eleazer Brown; Dec. 14, 1758.

“ Jeremiah, and Sarah Brown; m. by Jabez Harris, Justice, Dec. 24, 1762.

“ Sylvanus, and Jerusha Brown; m. by Daniel Mowry, Jr. Justice, Nov. 19, 1767.

“ Sarah, and Benjamin Sheldon; May 19, 1771.

“ Abigail, and Smith Sayles; July 30, 1780.

“ Mary, and Isaac Comstock; Oct. 25, 1801.

“ Henry, of Jeremiah, of Smithfield, and Sally Sayles, of Cumberland, daughter of Capt. David, dec.; m. by Thomas Man, Justice, Feb. 6, 1822.

“ George W., of Cumberland, and Eliza Ann Blanchard, of Smithfield; m. by Rev. John Borden, Jr., June 10, 1844.

“ Charles A., of Providence, son of Charles, and Mary A. Field, of do, dau. of George Augustus; m. by Rev. Henry Waterman, Dec. 2, 1844.

“ John, of Thomas and Susannah, and Elizabeth G. Watson, of Champlain L. and Elizabeth G.; m. by Rev. B. P. Talbot, Oct. 16, 1848.

“ William H., of Smithfield, son of David and Lydia, of North Providence; and Sarah F. Thomas, of George D., of Smithfield; m. by Rev Warren Lincoln, Apr. 28, 1850.

Schouler Patrick H., and Agnes McDougall, m. by Rev. Edwin Leigh, Apr. 4, 1844.

Seagraves Sullivan, of Uxbridge, and Ann Janett B. Beals; m. by Rev. T. A. Taylor, Jan. 5, 1842.

Shan John, and Lydia A. Horton, widow; m. by Rev. T. A. Taylor, Nov. 27, 1845.

- Sheafe Caleb, of Joshua, and Esther Tucker, of Morris; m.
by Rev. Edward Mitchell, Apr. 1, 1787.
- Shepard Zephaniah, and Ruth Hill; m. by Thomas Owen,
Justice, Sept. 20, 1754.
- Sheldon John, of William, and Abigail Phillips, of Daniel;
m. by Daniel Smith, Justice, Oct. 15, 1769
- “ Benjamin, of William, and Sarah Smith, of Thomas;
m. by Stephen Arnold, Justice, May 19, 1771.
- “ Anne, and Rouse Potter; Aug. 6, 1775.
- “ Rebecca, and Rufus Phillips; May 1, 1777.
- “ Stephen, of Benjamin, and Elizabeth Mathewson, of
Joseph; m. by Edward Medbury, Justice, Oct. 13,
1799.
- “ Luke, of Benjamin, and Mercy Aldrich, of Samuel;
m. by Thomas Man, Justice, Oct. 24, 1799.
- “ Asa, of Benjamin, and Mary Hawkins, of Jabez; m.
by Ananias Mowry, Justice, May 6, 1804.
- “ Vienna, and James Wilkinson; June 10, 1810.
- “ Adeline, and William Smith Darling; Apr. 20, 1832.
- “ Eliza, and George H. Lee; Feb. 2, 1842.
- Sheple Joseph B., of Boston, Mass., and Sarah L. Jennison,
of Smithfield. m. by Rev. T. A. Taylor, Oct. 20,
1848.
- Sherlock Rebecca, and David Alverson; Nov. 4, 1754.
- “ Martha, and Jonathan Shippee; Dec. 9, 1754.
- “ Mary, and Joseph Chace; Nov. 30, 1755.
- “ John, of Uxbridge, and Sarah Knowlton, of Wrent-
ham; m. by Thomas Lapham, Justice, Jan. 1, 1761.
- Sherman Hannah, and Joshua Lapham; Apr. 3, 1747.
- “ Elkanah, and Margaret Sayles; m. by Thomas Lap-
ham, Justice, Oct. 18, 1747.
- “ Elizabeth, and David Alverson; Apr. 20, 1748.

- Sherman Caleb, of Exeter, and Wealthian Mathewson of Smithfield; m. by Henry S. Mansfield, Justice, Apr. 2, 1826.
- " Sally Ann, and Charles C. Mowry; June 16, 1839.
- " Lois, and Reuben S. Studley; Mar. 22, 1840.
- " Frances Amanda, and Albert Tillinghast Harris; Feb. 25, 1841.
- " David P., and Mary H. Brown; m. by Rev. William Verinder, Nov. 3, 1844.
- " Martha A., and Marshall J. Mowry; June 9, 1847.
- " William H., of Lawton A. and Nancy, and Martha Scholfield, of John and Sarah; m. by Rev. B. P. Talbot, May 13, 1849.
- " Ann E., and Erastus G. Gardiner; Jan. 16, 1851.
- Shippee Hannah, and William Heavens; Jan. 14, 1732-3.
- " Mehetable, and Edward Bishop; Jan. 14, 1732-3.
- " Thomas, and Ruth Mowry; m. by Thomas Sayles, Justice, Mar. 29, 1735.
- " Martha, and James Daniels; Sept. 20, 1735.
- " Job, and Rose Shippee; m. by Thomas Sayles, Justice, June 25, 1738.
- " Rose, and Job Shippee; June 25, 1738.
- " Mary, and Joseph Herendeen; Nov. 12, 1738.
- " Henry, and Zerviah Brown; m. by Thomas Sayles, Justice, July 29, 1743.
- " Mercy, and Eleazer Albee; Nov. 6, 1743.
- " Zerviah, and Jacob Mowry; Jan. 3, 1843-4.
- " Nathan, of Smithfield, and Mary White, of Uxbridge; m. by Thomas Sayles, Justice, Jan. 22, 1743-4.
- " Joseph, and Bethiah Herendeen; m. by Thomas Sayles, Justice, Aug. 2, 1744.

- Shippee Margaret, and Thomas Jenckes, Apr. 4, 1745.
- “ Christopher, and Sarah Chillson; m. by Thomas Sayles, Justice, June 20, 1746.
- “ Samuel; and Sarah Mowry; m. by Thomas Steere, Justice, Feb. 1, 1746-7.
- “ Peter, and Zerniah Herendeen; m. by Thomas Steere, Justice, Dec. 28, 1748.
- “ Sarah, and Gideon Sayles; July 26, or Aug. 23, 1752.
- “ Jonathan, and Martha Sherlock; m. by Thomas Latham, Justice, Dec. 9, 1754.
- “ Solomon, and Martha Herendeen; m. by Stephen Sly, Justice, Dec. 11, 1755.
- “ Nathaniel, and Sarah Arnold; m. by Daniel Mowry, Jr., Justice, Dec. 3, 1758.
- “ Hettabel, and Izreal Herendeen; Mar. 19, 1759.
- “ Patience, and Benajah Cady; Sept. 13, 1759.
- “ Ruth, and John Hutchinson; Apr. 23, 1760.
- “ Sarah, and Benjamin Ballard, Sept. 6, 1764.
- “ Martha. and Stephen Herendeen; May 3, 1767.
- “ David, of Nathan, and Rhoda Herendeen; of Ebenezer; m. by Richard Sayles, Justice, Jan; 1, 1769.
- “ Bethiah, and Sylvanus Mathewson; June 19, 1774.
- “ Rose, and Stephen Sayles; Jan. 2, 1783.
- “ John, of John, and Mary Staples of Nathan; m. by Ananius Mowry, Justice, Mar. 12, 1809.
- “ Nancy, and Elijah Brown; May 4, 1817.
- Shirt Ellen, and William Renworthy; Apr. 27, 1848.
- Sholes Eveline, and James Wood; Oct. 11, 1850.
- Sibley Abigail, and David W. Streeter; July 25, 1839.

Simmons Syrel, and Levina E. Arnold, of Benjamin; late of Bolton, Conn., m. by Rev. Reuben Allen, Nov. 21, 1841.

Sing James F., and Louisa Bennett, m. by Rev. S. S. Bradford, Apr. 6, 1846.

Slade Ruth Howland, and Ebenezer Allen Hill; Nov. 4, 1819.

“ Mary L., and Simeon A. Winslow; Dec. 11, 1823.

“ Stephen S., and Mary Jane Pitts; m. by Rev. T. A. Taylor, May 4, 1840.

Slater Stephen, Jr., and Sally B. Carroll; m. by Rev. T. A. Taylor, Dec. 23, 1839.

“ Rhoda A., and John L. Stimpson; July 31, 1845.

Slocum Mary, and Thomas Sayles; June 13, 1757.

“ Elizabeth, and Samuel Cooper; Apr. 20, 1766.

“ Benjamin, Jr., of Benjamin, and Sarah Mowry, of Elisha; m. by Caleb Aldrich, Justice, June 5, 1774.

(To be Continued in our next.)

This number of the Register is worth a careful reading. Dr. Turner's able article on the *Cranston Family* particularly is worthy of study. The Doctor not only gives a biography but a history of a critical period in Rhode Island affairs and he shows at some length the means used to foil the plans of the usurpers. It is with pleasure we announce the fact that the Doctor will in future contribute other papers as full of interest as the one above alluded too. With several very carefully prepared papers already in hand and the promised of several more now in course of preparation, we flatter ourselves that the next volume of the Register will be enabled to furnish a rich treat to its readers.

The Vital Record of Rhode Island. We are pushing all our resources looking towards the publication of the initial volume in the new year. Just as soon as the subscription list will warrant the publication, then just as soon will the work be placed in type. Its price will probably be FIVE dollars, and will be a work that no one will feel is not worth more than the money asked for it. We are in hopes to be able to make more definite announcement of the work in our next number.


The Editor of the Register is very thankful to those of the Rhode Island Press who have spoken so very kindly in their papers, of his forthcoming work, the *Vital Record of Rhode Island*. With such encouragement we feel that we can labor on the work with increased energy. The work so far is the best part of seventeen years labor and when published will be as fine a work of reference on Rhode Island Genealogy as has ever yet been issued from the press in this or any other State.

About 1765, a Mr. Clarke, the night before his marriage was to have taken place, was walking on the beach with a friend, whose name is unknown, when they were both taken by a Press Gang and carried to the West Indies, and worked as slaves in a sugar house. Clarke made his escape and after an absence of three years returned and married his lady love. What was his given name, of what town was he a resident, and what was the name of his friend?

He had a son Payne, and a daughter Polly, who married a Brown. A daughter Elizabeth, born about 1770, married Jonathan Rathbun, about 1785. Whose son was Jonathan, and in what town was this marriage?

In the next number of the Register we shall publish an interesting letter written by Gen O'Hara to Gen Conboy, the Commander of His Majesty's forces, on board of His Majesty's Ship Orpheus, 1782. This letter is interesting from its views of the plans of the campaigns of His Majesty's Commanders looking towards the suppression of the Rebellion of the United Colonies, 1775 to 1782.

Poor generalship, if successful is applauded, while the most skillful movements, if unsuccessful is condemned by those who are in the mood to be critical or fault finding.

 Note. After the enclosed matter was placed in type and sent to Dr. Merrill for correction, an unforeseen delay of four weeks ensued in which the printer supposed that his manuscript had miscarried or become lost, and he accordingly printed his copy after making such corrections as he was able. Not being familiar with the Doctor's manuscript lead him into a few errors which he now takes the opportunity to correct from the returned proof sheets.

Page 282, read Wilcocks of Brighlingsea, and same for Kent and London. Also read Tottenham Court, instead as printed.

Page 284, read ship Bona Nona.

Page 285, read Bridgeport and Stratford.

Page 286, read a juror in 1645, and Sarah, Lucy, read Sarah Long.

Page 287, read Bushwick, L. I.

Page 290, read Feltsville.

Page 291, read Hiram for Hurain.

Page 292, read Sherebrooke.

Page 293, read Emma and Alma for Erurua and Alrua.

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